United Nations S/2000/505

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 30 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, issued on 30 May 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fesseha A. **Tessema**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-45393 (E) 300500

Annex to the letter dated 30 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement

The Ethiopian Defence Forces that had advanced deep into western Eritrea since 12 May 2000 have evacuated the area after having successfully completed their mission.

The mission had two objectives:

1. To destroy enemy forces that were in retreat in the area;

2. To facilitate the realization of the return of Ethiopian territories along other parts of the border that had been earlier invaded by Eritrea.

The loss suffered by Eritrea at the western front contributed to the success of Ethiopia's campaign to evict Eritrean troops of occupation in other areas along the common border.

The defeat of Eritrean troops in the western front also encouraged the leaders in Asmara to return to the peace talks without the preconditions they so arrogantly put forward a month ago.

At the same time, it should be noted that, while Eritrea's leaders declare that they have accepted a ceasefire, what is evident is that, realism aside, feverish efforts are under way on all the fronts to regroup the battered Eritrean army for the purpose of making a comeback. Any effort by the Eritrean regime to instigate another round of combat will be resolutely rebuffed. Eritrea cannot be allowed to gamble with the peace and stability that is so essential for any progress to be made in furthering development in the Horn of Africa.

Ethiopia has no territorial claims over Eritrea. The withdrawal of the Ethiopian defence forces from western Eritrea is proof of that. All that Ethiopia wanted was the removal of Eritrean troops from Ethiopian soil. As in the other areas of the western and central fronts, Eritrean troops have now fled Bure in the east. It has, however, not been verified that they have vacated Badda on the north-east frontier. Ethiopia is taking urgent measures to verify if indeed Eritrean troops have withdrawn from all occupied territories in the region.

Ethiopia, however, has at no time closed the door to peace. It remains committed to the OAU Chairman's efforts to reach a just solution to the crisis, and a delegation led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs is in Algiers for the OAU-sponsored talks.

30 May 2000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Nations A/54/889–S/2000/506

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2000
English
Original: French

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 77 (a)
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 30 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that in the context of the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the thirteenth Ministerial Meeting was held in N'Djamena from 2 to 6 May 2000.

On behalf of the current Chairman of the Committee, I am transmitting to you herewith the report adopted at the end of this meeting, as well as the N'Djamena Declaration (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 77 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmat A. **Haggar**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations

00-45485 (E) 120600 160600

Annex to the letter dated 30 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Report of the thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

N'Djamena, 2-6 May 2000

Introduction

The thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in N'Djamena from 2 to 6 May 2000.

The following States members took part in the meeting: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. Rwanda was absent.

Representatives of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) also participated in the work. The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) was represented by His Excellency Mr. Nelson Cosme, Deputy Secretary-General for Human Integration, Peace, Stability and Security.

The opening ceremony featured:

- A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, read out by his representative, Mr. Hamidou Diawara, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident coordinator in N'Djamena;
- A message from the Secretary-General of OAU, read out by his representative Mr. Léonard Emile Ognimba, senior official of OAU;
- An address by His Excellency Mr. Nelson Cosme, Deputy Secretary-General for Human Integration, Peace, Stability and Security of ECCAS;
- An address by His Excellency Mr. Nagoum Yamassoum, Prime Minister of the Republic of Chad.

Adoption of the agenda

The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Interim report of the Bureau

3. Evaluation of the implementation of previous decisions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee:

   A. Establishment of an early warning mechanism;

   B. Organization of military exercises in connection with peacekeeping operations between the armed forces of the countries of Central Africa;

   C. Establishment of a subregional parliament in Central Africa;

   D. Establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy;

   E. Establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX).

4. Consideration of the implementation of the recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa

5. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

6. Intergovernmental cooperation in security matters among the countries of Central Africa

7. Freedom of movement for certain categories of nationals of member States within ECCAS

8. Preparation for the subregional conference on refugees in Central Africa

9. Date and place of the next meeting

10. Other matters

11. Adoption of the report of the thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee

Conduct of work

I. Interim report of the Bureau

The Committee took note of the interim report presented by His Excellency Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chad, in his capacity as Chairman of the Bureau at the ministerial level.

The Committee welcomed the efforts made by the Bureau to date to discharge the mandates entrusted to it by the twelfth Ministerial Meeting, particularly:

- The submission to the United Nations General Assembly of the draft resolution on the work of the Advisory Committee which was adopted at the twelfth Ministerial Meeting;

- The assistance provided by the Committee to ECCAS in organizing a meeting of experts at Malabo in order to draw up a draft protocol on the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX);

- The assistance provided for the organization of the third special summit meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Central African countries in Malabo, which served as a framework for the adoption and signature of the Protocol on COPAX and the Mutual Assistance Pact;
- The initiatives undertaken to promote the restoration of peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the consolidation of peace in the Central African Republic;
- The steps taken within the context of preparations for the subregional conference on refugees;
- The approaches made to Canada for the implementation of the initiative entitled "Disarmament for development and peace" in respect of controlling the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;
- Awareness-raising among the countries of the subregion with regard to the need for ratification of the Non-Aggression Pact, the Protocol on COPAX and the Mutual Assistance Pact;
- The organization of the thirteenth Ministerial Meeting;
- The steps taken for the effective launching of the early warning mechanism and the establishment of the subregional centre for human rights and democracy.

II. Evaluation of the implementation of the previous decisions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee

A. Establishment of an early warning mechanism

The Committee welcomed the contacts which are under way between the ECCAS secretariat and the Government of Gabon in relation to the refurbishing of the building which is to house the headquarters of the early warning mechanism.

The Committee took note with interest of the approaches made by the Government of Gabon to the United States of America with regard to the financing of the mechanism, and the goodwill expressed by that country in that respect.

A mandate was given to the Bureau to take the necessary steps, in conjunction with the Committee secretariat, for holding a high-level seminar on the organization and operation of an early warning mechanism.

B. Organization of military exercises in connection with peacekeeping operations between the armed forces of the countries of Central Africa

After welcoming the success of the Gabon 2000 exercise, the Committee reiterated its interest in organizing a joint military exercise, even on a limited scale, by mobilizing the resources of the Central African countries themselves.

In this respect, the Committee recommended that a meeting of the chiefs of staff of the Central African countries should be convened before the fourteenth

Ministerial Meeting in order to review the Biyongho-98 exercise, revise its costs downwards and determine the division of contributions among the different countries.

Gabon, the country which is to accommodate the exercise, was approached about hosting the meeting.

A mandate was given to the Bureau to take all the necessary steps for the organization of this meeting.

C. Establishment of a subregional parliament in Central Africa

The Committee took note with satisfaction of the progress of the project to establish a subregional parliament in Central Africa and in particular the preparation of a draft protocol for the organization of that institution which is under way in the ECCAS secretariat.

It welcomed the approaches made by the ECCAS secretariat to the various national parliaments and certain inter-African institutions with a view to establishing a subregional parliament in Central Africa.

The Committee called upon ECCAS to make the necessary arrangements to convene, before the fourteenth Ministerial Meeting, a meeting of subregional experts and parliamentarians to study the modalities for setting up the network of parliamentarians established by the Heads of State of the subregion in Malabo in June 1999 and securing the financing necessary for its operation.

D. Establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy

The Committee took note with satisfaction of the appropriation by the United Nations General Assembly, under its resolution 54/249 of 23 December 1999, of an amount of one million dollars for the establishment of the subregional centre for human rights and democracy. In that respect, it expressed its gratitude to the United Nations.

It welcomed the forthcoming visit to Cameroon of a mission of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in order to define the modalities of the establishment of the subregional centre for human rights and democracy.

It welcomed with satisfaction the information provided on the forthcoming visit to Central Africa of Ms. Mary Robinson, High Commissioner for Human Rights, and her commitment to give full support to the projects relating to the promotion and protection of human rights in the subregion.

E. Implementation of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX)

The Committee welcomed the signature by the African Heads of State and Government, at their meeting in Malabo on 24 February 2000, of the protocol concerning COPAX and the Mutual Assistance Pact. It also welcomed the

ratification by Cameroon of those two major legal instruments and the fact that other member States had also begun ratification procedures.

It expressed the hope that those procedures would be completed rapidly, so that COPAX might begin functioning as soon as possible.

The Bureau was mandated to convene, in conjunction with the Committee secretariat, an expert meeting of member States in order to consider proposed legislative mandates for the early warning mechanism, the Central African multinational force and the defence commission for the Central African countries. It was decided that the meeting would be held in Yaoundé in the second half of June 2000, before the next summit meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Central African countries.

III. Implementation of the recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa

After reviewing the recommendations formulated by the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa, held in N'Djamena from 25 to 27 October 1999, the Committee welcomed the remarkable efforts of the countries of the subregion to implement the recommendations.

In particular, it noted with satisfaction:

- The elaboration by several member States of the Committee of national good-governance plans;
- The creation in some of those States of national structures to coordinate the campaign against the proliferation of small arms and of committees to follow up the Committee' s recommendations;
- The strict regulation of the activities of private security firms, and particularly the fact that such firms were prohibited from possessing arms;
- The launching of programmes to promote awareness of the dangers of firearms in certain countries, particularly by means of radio broadcasts;
- The implementation of programmes to collect and destroy arms;
- The inclusion in peace or ceasefire agreements of clauses on arms collection;
- The strengthening of border controls, particularly by setting up new frontier posts;
- The implementation of training programmes for border guards.

The Committee recommended that member countries should intensify measures to implement the recommendations of the Conference and, more generally, should spare no effort in the campaign against the proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms, taking into account the dangers of this scourge for peace, security, stability and development in the subregion.

The Committee recommended that the Bureau, in conjunction with the Committee secretariat, should hold consultations with member countries on the

implementation of the measures called for by the Conference at the subregional level, particularly:

- Harmonization of national legislation in the Central African countries to combat the proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms;
- Establishment of a standard arms registration system at the national and subregional levels and of a database of arms stocks for each country, of arms dealers and transport agents;
- Consideration of regional arms collection projects, accompanied by small-scale development projects to promote the economic and social reintegration of offenders, in collaboration with donors and international bodies.

IV. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

Angola

The Committee expressed concern at the continuing situation in Angola as a result of the refusal of Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), to comply with the terms of the 1994 Lusaka Protocol and of the relevant Security Council resolutions. It welcomed the efforts of the Government of Angola to end the war and restore peace in Angola.

It appealed for strict application of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council against UNITA and urged all the States of the subregion to consider the Fowler report on sanctions against UNITA and the recommendations contained therein as a good basis for ending violations of the United Nations sanctions regime.

The Committee welcomed the decision by Mr. Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, to reintegrate civilian population groups, military forces and other UNITA officials who abandoned Mr. Savimbi.

It welcomed the announcement by President dos Santos that general elections would be held in 2001, and called upon all political parties to take part therein.

Burundi

The Committee warmly welcomed the designation of President Nelson Mandela to mediate in the issue of Burundi; this responded to concern expressed by the Committee at its previous meeting.

It also welcomed the positive developments since the appointment of the new mediator, particularly the holding of talks involving all the political forces in the country.

The Committee expressed its serious concern at the persistence of massacres which continued to afflict innocent civilians in Burundi. It urgently appealed to the armed rebellion to agree to participate effectively in the current talks under the mediation of President Mandela.

It called for the prompt proclamation of a ceasefire in order to put an end to the massacres of innocent civilians, and urged all parties to the Lusaka Agreement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo to implement its provisions, particularly those on the disarming of Burundian armed groups.

In order to consolidate the ongoing peace process, the Committee appealed to the international community to rapidly resume bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Burundi, in order to relieve the hardship which the Burundian people had been enduring for more than seven years.

Cameroon

The Committee welcomed the growing climate of peace and stability in Cameroon.

It noted with satisfaction the implementation of the national plan for good governance in Cameroon, and the remarkable efforts made by the country' s authorities in the campaign against corruption.

The Committee expressed deep concern at the information provided by the delegation of Cameroon on the persistent attempts at infiltration and repeated acts of provocation by Nigerian forces on the Bakassi peninsula, and called on the two parties to refrain from any action that could heighten tensions while awaiting the decision of the International Court of Justice, which Cameroon had seized of the matter.

The Committee, while reiterating its appeal to the international community and friendly countries to assist in maintaining the peace between Cameroon and Nigeria while awaiting the verdict of the International Court of Justice, requested the Court to take the necessary steps to ensure a rapid conclusion of the proceeding pending before it.

The Committee again urged Nigeria to comply strictly with the interim measures of protection laid down by the Court in its ruling of 15 March 1996, and called upon the two parties to refrain from taking any action that could create difficulties for the application of the final judgement of the Court.

The Committee expressed concern at the ongoing cross-border phenomenon of roadblocks, the illegal circulation of small-calibre weapons and weapons of war and the increase in organized crime.

It welcomed the determination of the Government of Cameroon to combat insecurity, the commendable efforts it had made in that regard and the notable success already achieved.

Congo

The Committee was informed about the positive developments in the situation in the Congo. It welcomed the return of peace and security throughout the territory, due in particular to the effective implementation of the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities agreements concluded on 16 November 1999 at Pointe-Noire and on 29 December 1999 at Brazzaville between the Forces Armeés Congolaises and the

armed factions through the mediation of the President of the Gabonese Republic, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo.

It urged the committee formed to monitor those agreements to continue its efforts, in particular with regard to the demobilization of former members of the militia and the collection of weapons, in order to establish conditions favourable to a national dialogue intended to define the modalities for reconstruction of the Congo, consolidation of national unity and renewal of the democratic process.

The Committee appealed to the international community for urgent and significant assistance to the Congo in taking the necessary action to consolidate the peace.

Gabon

The Committee was pleased at the positive developments in the situation in Gabon, characterized by the free exercise of activities by political parties, normal functioning of institutions and a general climate of peace and political stability.

It welcomed the valuable assistance provided to Gabon by certain friendly countries and by OAU in implementing a programme of assistance to ease the suffering of refugees located in Gabon.

It expressed concern at the time it was taking the agencies concerned to get the assistance to the refugees. It requested the High Commissioner for Refugees and the countries concerned to make every effort to ensure the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of the refugees in their countries of origin.

Finally, the Committee took note with interest of the summit on growth and poverty reduction which had taken place in Libreville in January 2000.

Equatorial Guinea

The Committee welcomed the progress in the democratization process in Equatorial Guinea and the forthcoming municipal elections, in which all the political parties had announced their participation.

The Committee commended the Government for its efforts to promote a culture of democracy in the country and welcomed the financial assistance recently granted to political parties.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Committee welcomed the efforts made by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, current Chairman of OAU, to implement the Lusaka Agreement and the Summit held on 30 April 2000 at Algiers to facilitate that goal.

The Committee welcomed the decisions taken during the meeting of the Political Committee held at Kampala from 6 to 8 April 2000, in particular the adoption by all the parties to the conflict of a plan for the disengagement and redeployment of troops, in accordance with the Lusaka Agreement, and their decision to order a total cessation of hostilities beginning on 14 April 2000.

The Committee strongly urged all the parties to respect scrupulously their commitments in that regard so as to consolidate the ceasefire.

The Committee made an urgent appeal to the United Nations Security Council to move as quickly as possible to phase 2 of the deployment of the United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Committee expressed its grave concern at the continuing illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the occupation forces and appealed for an immediate halt to these practices.

It welcomed the proposal of the United Nations Secretary-General to establish a group of independent experts to investigate the illegal exploitation of the resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It strongly reaffirmed the obligation of all the parties to respect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It stressed the need for all the parties to provide assurances and guarantees of security for the countries of the Great Lakes region.

Central African Republic

The Committee welcomed the gradual restoration of peace in the Central African Republic and the commendable efforts made by the Government, with the assistance of the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) to consolidate the peace.

It also commended the President, Mr. Ange Félix Patassé, for his commitment to national reconciliation and reconstruction of the country, and welcomed the easing of tensions and the renewed confidence between the various political forces, which was illustrated in particular by the return of the opposition deputies to the National Assembly since March 2000.

The Committee expressed its concern at the upsurge in acts of banditry carried out in the hinterland by means of roadblocks. It noted with satisfaction the measures taken by the Central African Government to combat insecurity, *inter alia*, the establishment on 24 April 2000 of a Secretariat of State for Disarmament and the forthcoming restructuring of the armed forces and security forces.

The Committee also welcomed the meeting of donors soon to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York to secure the means to support the consolidation of peace in the Central African Republic.

Sao Tome and Principe

The Committee expressed its concern at the deterioration of the socio-economic situation in Sao Tome and Principe due to the implementation of the measures provided for in the structural adjustment programme concluded with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

It commended the efforts of the Government of Sao Tome and Principe to maintain a climate of peace and stability in the country and welcomed the cordial

tone of the negotiations with neighbouring countries on the delimitation of maritime borders.

Chad

The Committee welcomed the efforts made by the Government of the Republic of Chad to establish a consensual and participatory democracy. It welcomed with satisfaction the promulgation by the Government of Chad, under its policy of good governance and management, of an act prohibiting financial embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds.

The Committee commended the efforts made to reinforce the process of national reconciliation and noted with satisfaction the continuing policy of dialogue initiated by President Idriss Déby.

It appealed to all parties in Chad to respond positively to this desire for dialogue and to choose conciliation over confrontation in order to preserve the higher interests of the Chadian people.

The Committee took note with satisfaction of the success the Chadian security forces had had in combating insecurity, in particular in preventing roadblocks.

The Committee received a progress report on the Chad-Cameroon pipeline project and welcomed the progress made.

V. Intergovernmental cooperation in security matters in Central Africa

The Committee took note with satisfaction of the actions and initiatives taken by the States members within the framework of cooperation in security matters aimed, in particular, at lessening tensions and combating insecurity in the border areas, as well as making it possible to have exchanges between the various national structures dealing with these questions.

In view of the cross-border nature of most of the security problems in the subregion and the need to respond to them in a joint and concerted manner, the Committee again strongly recommended greater cooperation and dialogue among the security forces of the Central African countries, particularly within the framework of periodic meetings and the organization of joint operations.

The Committee particularly welcomed:

- The contacts at the summit among the Heads of State of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of Angola, which had resulted in the signature at Luanda in December 1999 of a framework agreement among those three countries for the creation of a tripartite joint security commission;
- The cooperation between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo, which has led to the repatriation to the latter of refugees who had fled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

- The contacts and exchanges between Gabon and the Congo regarding security issues; and
- The collaboration between Equatorial Guinea and the Congo which had resulted in the return to the Congo by the authorities of Equatorial Guinea of a boat that had been hijacked as well as of the hijackers.

The Committee expressed its concern with regard to the upsurge in organized crime and insecurity in the countries of the subregion, particularly the development of the phenomenon of roadblocks. It recommended the intensification of information exchange and the organization of joint operations to combat this scourge. It recommended that a high-level meeting should be held on the question, aimed at setting up a suitable legal framework for cooperation in the matter.

It stressed the need for closer cooperation among the security services of various countries with a view to combating the trans-border trade in stolen vehicles.

The Committee also recommended the creation of a fund to combat crime. The Bureau was mandated to study and propose ways and means of allocating sufficient resources to the fund.

Recalling the importance to the subregion' s peace and security of the Mutual Assistance Pact concluded on 24 February 2000 among the countries of Central Africa, the Committee invited the countries that had signed the Pact to ratify it. It recommended that the Bureau should draw the attention of those countries that had not already ratified the Pact of the need to do so so that it could enter into force before the end of the year 2000.

Aware of the need to strengthen cooperation for peace and security in the subregion, the Committee welcomed the signing of the agreement on criminal police cooperation in April 1999 at the meeting of the Committee of Central African Police Chiefs in Yaoundé. It appealed to those countries which had not yet done so to take all necessary steps to proceed to the rapid signing of this text and guarantee its full effectiveness.

VI. Free movement of certain categories of citizens of States members of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

While stressing the importance and topical character of this question and after having taken note of the presentation made on the issue by the Under-Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States, the Committee determined that it should be examined in a more appropriate framework, in this case by the competent authorities of ECCAS.

VII. Preparation of the subregional conference on the question of refugees in Central Africa

Turning to the question of the subregional conference on the question of refugees in Central Africa, the Committee stressed the importance of this meeting,

in view of the seriousness of the refugee problem in Central Africa and the threats it posed to the economic, social and security situation in the subregion.

The Committee recommended that the Conference should examine such questions as:

- The causes of refugee flows in Central Africa;
- The living conditions of refugees in the host country;
- Assistance to refugees;
- The rights and obligations of refugees;
- The problem of the repatriation and reintegration of refugees, of their transfer to another host country or of their absorption;
- Relations between host countries and countries of origin;
- Assistance to host countries; and
- The question of displaced persons.

The Committee welcomed the measures already taken by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs in preparation for this conference.

The Bureau was mandated to make, in cooperation with the Committee secretariat, all approaches to the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees necessary to collect the information and data needed to prepare adequately for that conference, which would be held prior to the fourteenth Ministerial Meeting.

VIII. Date and place of the next meeting

The Committee decided to hold its fourteenth Ministerial Meeting during the second week of August 2000 at Bujumbura in Burundi.

IX. Other matters

The Committee stressed the need for the Bureau to meet at least once prior to each Ministerial Meeting.

The Committee urged member States to make regular contributions to the trust fund intended to finance its activities.

The Committee requested the Bureau to closely follow the ongoing conflict situations in Central Africa, to increase its involvement in peace and security initiatives in the subregion and to report to the Committee on the topic at each meeting.

The Committee welcomed the visit of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to several countries of the subregion on the occasion of the thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, and adopted a Declaration on that topic at the close of its work.

Done at N'Djamena on 6 May 2000

Appendix I

Declaration

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the member States of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, meeting at N'Djamena on 5 and 6 May 2000, on the occasion of the thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the Committee:

Considering the essential role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security in the world,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,

Bearing in mind also the words of his recent report entitled "We the peoples ...",

Considering the persistence of tensions, crises and conflicts in Central Africa,

Taking note in particular of the tireless efforts of the United Nations to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts in the Central African subregion, *inter alia*, by establishing and providing continued support for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa,

Pay warm tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, for all his initiatives in favour of peace, security and stability in our subregion, especially in Angola, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Salute his recent visit to Central Africa (Gabon, the Central African Republic, and Cameroon) in conjunction with the thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of our Committee, and welcome the message he delivered on peace security and stability on that occasion, and

Encourage the Secretary-General in his efforts to strengthen the initiatives in order to restore peace, stability and security to Africa in general and to Central Africa in particular.

Done at N'Djamena on 6 May 2000

United Nations S/2000/507

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 27 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 25 May 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq in the so-called no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 15 to 22 May 2000 United States and British aircraft carried out 152 sorties in the course of which they bombed civilian installations in Iraq, killing one child, wounding 11 civilian citizens and killing and injuring large numbers of livestock.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-45746 (E) 010600 010600

Annex to the identical letters dated 27 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 152 sorties in the period from 15 to 22 May 2000, 72 of them from Saudi Arabia, 46 from Kuwait and 34 from Turkey, as shown hereunder. As a result, one child was killed, 11 adult civilians were wounded and large numbers of livestock were killed and injured.

1. In the northern region 34 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1820 hours on 15 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul and Irbil areas. They attacked a civilian installation in Ninawa Governorate, injuring two civilians. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2120 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1130 hours on 22 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Zakho, Aqrah, Mosul and Irbil areas. They attacked a civilian installation in Ninawa Governorate, injuring one civilian. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 118 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 2230 hours on 16 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 20 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Kut and Nu`maniyah areas and attacked civilian installations there. Four people were wounded, including a child. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0100 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1000 hours on 17 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace.

They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Nukhayb, Najaf, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Qurnah, Basrah, Taqtaqanah and Qal'at Salih areas. The aircraft attacked civilian installations in the Mishkhab district of Najaf Governorate, killing a 13-year-old child, wounding four herdsmen, setting fire to crops and killing and injuring large numbers of livestock. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1105 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1055 hours on 18 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Jalibah, Samawah, Rumaythah, Shinafiyah, Nukhayb, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Qal'at Sukkar, Najaf, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Amarah and Afak areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1205 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1030 hours on 19 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Jalibah, Samawah, Nukhayb, Ashbajah, Salman and Basrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1215 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1125 hours on 20 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Busayyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Rifa'i, Salman and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1430 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1005 hours on 21 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 10 missions, four of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Nasiriyah, Rifa'i, Najaf, Taqtaqanah, Afak, Hayy, Basrah, Shinafiyah, Artawi, Salman and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1120 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 0855 hours on 22 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 10 missions, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of

an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Artawi and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1110 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these wanton acts of aggression, urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt their attacks and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

United Nations S/2000/508

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 30 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge a strong protest over the heinous crime committed by ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists at Cernica, an ethnically mixed village in the United States KFOR area of responsibility in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, on 28 May 2000. On that day at about 8 p.m. they opened automatic fire on a group of Serbs gathered in front of a shop in the Serbian part of the village, killing Tihomir Trifunovic, Vojin Vasic and 5-year-old Milos Petrovic, and wounding Zoran Stolic and Petko Jankovic. The latest crime comes in the train of a series of atrocities committed by ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists at Cernica and a string of other ethnically mixed or Serbian villages, such as Partes, Donja Budringa and Pasjane, since the deployment of the international presences in Kosovo and Metohija. They included mortar attacks, dynamiting of the Orthodox church, throwing of a hand grenade at a Serbian shop and the stoning and destruction of vehicles belonging to Serbs and passing through the ethnic Albanian part of Cernica.

The most recent crime committed before the eyes of the international presences, acting under United Nations auspices, in which also a 5-year-old boy lost his life, is yet another example of the failure of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) to carry out their mandates and implement Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, which provides for ensuring a secure environment to all residents of that Serbian province. The crime is also eloquent proof of the glaring failure of the international presences to ensure respect for human rights, such as freedom of movement and the most basic human right of all, the right to life, the most frequent victims of which have been Serbs and other non-Albanians.

Almost a year after their deployment, the international presences continue to turn a blind eye to the continued atrocities of ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists, accounting for the loss of life of many Serbs and other non-Albanians and for the destruction of all traces of the existence of Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija, the cradle of their State and civilization. In bringing this sorry state of affairs to your attention, I trust and believe that the Security Council will finally discard its passivity and take vigorous measures to implement Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) fully and consistently and thus put an end to the violence and modern-day vandalism of ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists, in the most recent instance of which an innocent child has also lost his life.

00-45655 (E) 310500

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2000/509

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 31 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to advise that on two occasions on 18 May 2000 between 2.20 and 2.25 p.m., two Stabilization Force (SFOR) helicopters entered the air space of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia about 150 metres deep in the region of Mali Zvornik, in wanton violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in breach of the Dayton/Paris Agreement and the relevant Security Council resolutions establishing its mandate.

Considering the SFOR violations of the air space of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have become more frequent in recent days, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council to take appropriate measures to prevent such violations from taking place in the future.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-45668 (E) 310500

United Nations S/2000/510

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 30 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the allegation made in the letter dated 1 April 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to you (S/2000/278, annex) to the effect that at 1855 hours on 25 March 2000 a Saudi patrol consisting of three vehicles fired 10 rounds at what he calls the observer company's observation post 54 near the Amghar guardhouse.

I should like to assure you in this connection that this allegation is untrue and unfounded and that, in response to inquiries, the responsible authorities have stated that no such incident ever occurred. I have therefore sought to inform you accordingly and at the same time to alert the Iraqi side to the fact that it should attend to the accuracy and credibility of its allegations. For its part, Saudi Arabia respects and complies with the norms of international law and is committed to the implementation of the United Nations resolutions relating to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fawzi Bin Abdul Majeed **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-45649 (E) 310500 310500

United Nations S/2000/511

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 31 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, and to say that in reference to the letter of Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the Council, contained in document S/2000/381 of 4 May 2000, the Contact Group would like to endorse the call for a debate regarding contact between those indicted by the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda and representatives of the United Nations, in particular from the Security Council. The OIC Contact Group has already, on several occasions, expressed its encouragement for more action in taking into custody those indicted by the ICTY and exerting further Security Council pressure on those who systematically fail to cooperate. It has noted, however, that the results are still only partially satisfactory.

Recent arrests of indicted persons have been shown successful, rather than to the contrary, in promoting peace and reconciliation. Most countries and entities have provided sincere cooperation. The Contact Group felt, however, that cooperation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is still awaited. In situations such as this, any actions or meetings that would somehow give comfort to this lack of cooperation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should be avoided. In this context, a dialogue regarding appropriate standards of interaction is welcome and necessary in the realm of the Security Council.

Under the agenda item on the report of Mr. Wolfgang Petritsch, the High Representative for the implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the issue of the decision of the Security Council not to allow any other country, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the Security Council members to speak during the consideration of the report on 9 May 2000, was discussed by the Contact Group. It was felt that the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the delegation of the country that was on the agenda of the Security Council, and as the delegation that comprises all three constituent nations and, most of all, consistent with the concept of ownership, should have been given the right to speak. The Contact Group expresses the hope that the Security Council will consider the proposition in its future deliberations on this issue.

00-45674 (E) 310500

I shall be grateful if this communication is distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad-Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina

United Nations A/54/890–S/2000/512

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 43
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 31 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to respond to the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon, dated 22 May, concerning the withdrawal of Israeli forces in Lebanon (A/54/880-S/2000/465).

The Government of Israel adopted a decision, on 5 March 2000, to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. That decision was carried out on 24 May, as the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) redeployed to the international border.

It should be emphasized that the IDF completed the withdrawal swiftly and with maximum restraint, despite efforts by terrorists in the area to provoke a confrontation. The only instances in which force was used occurred when lives were at risk, and even then in a manner designed to avoid further casualties. The IDF, in fact, took pains to avoid any actions that might endanger innocent civilians, even as the terrorists cynically sought to use civilians as human shields. The Israeli forces were soon deployed safely on the Israeli side of the international border.

Israel had repeatedly expressed its preference for carrying out the withdrawal in the framework of a peace agreement. However, these efforts were not reciprocated in kind. Therefore, Israel finally undertook to withdraw unilaterally. The withdrawal was completed in full compliance with Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978). It should be recalled that in resolution 425 (1978), the Security Council calls not only for the withdrawal of Israeli forces but also for the restoration of international peace and security and the return of the effective authority of the Government of Lebanon to the area.

Now that the withdrawal has been concluded, we expect that the Government of Lebanon will fulfil its responsibility of ensuring peace and security within its borders. International law prohibits any State from allowing its territory to be a launching pad for terrorist activities. Israel reserves its right to act in self-defence should the need arise.

00-45786 (E) 010600

Prime Minister Ehud Barak made an appeal to the Government of Lebanon following Israel's withdrawal, in a special session of the Knesset held on 25 May 2000, in the northern Israeli city of Kiryat Shemona, where terrorists had rained hundreds of katyusha rockets from Lebanon over the years. "I appeal to the Government and people of Lebanon," Mr. Barak said. "I appeal to you, President Emile Lahoud. Israel extends its hand toward peace out of a vision of a joint future better for the children of both peoples. Let's exploit the moment, let's talk peace."

We call upon our neighbours to seize the momentum and return to the negotiating table so that we can bring peace to the region and security to our common borders.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2000/513

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 1 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith, letter from His Excellency Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister of External Relations.

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

00-45894 (E) 010600 010600

Annex to the letter dated 1 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

1 June 2000

1. As you know, the Security Council adopted its resolution 1044 (1996) under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations and subsequently, in its resolutions 1054 (1996) and 1070 (1996), it imposed sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter. In these resolutions, the Council calls upon the Government of the Sudan to comply with the requests made to:

(a) Hand over to the Government of Ethiopia the three persons suspected of the criminal, terrorist attempt to assassinate the President of Egypt, Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, in Addis Ababa on 26 June 1995;

(b) Desist from engaging in any terrorist activities; and

(c) Improve its relations with its neighbours in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of African Unity.

2. Without going into details of the facts surrounding this matter, it must be said that the Sudan has taken these requests most seriously. Since the imposition of sanctions in 1996, the country's Government has made sincere and pragmatic efforts to comply with the relevant provisions, as described hereunder.

I. The three suspects

3. The findings of the inquiries that have been conducted by the relevant Sudanese authorities over the past years show that no trace has been found of the three suspects in the Sudan. The Sudanese Government has held intensive consultations with the parties concerned, primarily Egypt and Ethiopia, and they have resulted in complete understanding with the two Governments on all security issues, including that of the three suspects. The two countries have expressed satisfaction with the honest efforts made by the Sudan in this regard, and security agreements or memoranda of understanding have been signed with them with a view to promoting future cooperation in this domain.

II. Eschewal of terrorist activities

4. The Government of the Sudan shares with the Security Council and the international community the goal of combating terrorism, and it expresses a genuine desire to cooperate with all the countries of the world for the achievement of this goal. The Government of the Sudan has affirmed its condemnation and rejection of all forms of terrorism and its commitment to the covenants and conventions that seek to combat terrorism in all its manifestations. It has matched words with deeds, inasmuch as since the Council called upon the Sudan in 1996 to desist from terrorism it has taken the steps outlined below.

(a) In May 2000, the Sudan completed the process of acceding to all of the international conventions for the elimination of international terrorism and signed the 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. The Sudan thus heads the list of States that have acceded to or signed the international conventions for the elimination of terrorism and has acquired a high standing in this regard.

(b) At the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, the Sudan participated in the drafting and adoption of General Assembly resolution 51/210, on measures to eliminate international terrorism, and of the Declaration annexed thereto, just as it had in the case of the Assembly's 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.

(c) The Sudan has stated that it is prepared, fully and unconditionally, to give effect to all the principles of international judicial cooperation for the suppression of terrorism and the apprehension of terrorists. In order to apply these principles and promote the mutual judicial and technical assistance necessary to combat acts of terrorism, the Sudan became a party to regional agreements and a participant in regional programmes for the suppression and elimination of terrorism in the African continent (through the Organization of African Unity) as well as in the framework of the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

(d) In March 2000 Sudanese legislation was enacted for the suppression of terrorist offences, and today it represents the crucial legal instrument for pre-empting and preventing such crimes in the Sudan itself and for imposing the severest of penalties on those who commit them. The Sudanese Government has also taken a number of measures that are well known to all, including some affecting the regulation of entry to the country. The requirement for an entry visa, for example, has been reintroduced for some nationalities previously exempted from it.

III. Relations with neighbouring States

5. As you know, the Sudan has 10 neighbours with which it enjoys good relations. It enjoys enhanced relations with most of them, as exemplified by the conclusion of different agreements by joint ministerial committees convened to discuss mutual political, economic and social interests. The Government of the Sudan has made sustained efforts to mend any rifts in the country's foreign relations at the inter-African and inter-Arab levels, where relations with some countries have in the past been strained, and it has demonstrated abundantly the political will to cooperate with these countries. Official channels of communication have been opened with them, and the contacts made have borne fruit in a full normalization of relations with them. Indeed, in most cases they have steered relations towards wider prospects for future cooperation on all bilateral issues.

6. On the basis of the foregoing, which provides clear confirmation that it is cooperating fully in the discharge of its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions, the Government of the Sudan requests you to convene a special meeting of the Security Council in order to lift the sanctions imposed on the country in the light of the practical and concrete measures that the Government of the Sudan has taken to meet the Council's demands.

7. In closing, I should like to assure you that the Sudan is fully confident and has every faith that the Council will spare no effort to give objective consideration to the question of lifting the sanctions imposed on the Sudan, given that it has discharged all of its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions. We should further like to assure you that the Sudan, in keeping with its history and its cultural heritage, is committed to the maintenance of international peace and security as part of its total commitment, as a Member of the United Nations, to international legitimacy.

(*Signed*) Mustafa Osman **Ismail**
Minister for External Relations

United Nations S/2000/514

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 1 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter of 24 May 2000 (S/2000/480), I have the honour to transmit herewith the list of Angolans recently expelled from the territory of Togo.

As the members of the Security Council can readily see, the 38 individuals listed in Annex I include 36 students enrolled in Togolese schools and two students at Benin University in Lomé.

Annex II lists the relatives who were living with them in Togo, including 10 men and 8 women.

In accordance with its promise to the Security Council and the Sanctions Committee, the Government of Togo is prepared to facilitate any monitoring of this matter.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter and the annexes thereto distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Seal)

(*Signed*) Roland Y. **Kpotsra**

00-46005 (E) 020600 020600

Annex I to the letter dated 1 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

List of students

No.	Name	Nationality	Date and place of birth	Occupation	Height	Father's name	Mother's name
1	VINDES YAKUMBNI Rosa	Angolaise	04/03/1992 KITTWE-ZAMBIE	Elève	1, m	BAPTISTA Vindes	ESANDJU
2	VINDES ALICE Tchikumbu	Angolaise	03/03/1989 TCHIKUMBU-ANGOLA	Elève	1, m	BAPTISTA Vindes	ESANDJU
3	BERNARDINO Arlette	Angolaise	21/04/1983 LUANDA	Elève	1,30 m	Gabriel BERNARDINO	Beatriz BERNARDINO
4	OLIVEIRA Arlette Silumula	Angolaise	08/02/1986 MALANGE	Elève	1,45 m	Kapata OLIVEIRA	Berta Guia Satumbo
5	SAKAITA Araujo Tao	Angolaise	30/03/1978 Andolo	Etudiant	1,70 m	Sakaita Jones M.	Ululi Catarina
6	SAKAITA Pédro Sanjenguela	Angolaise	18/09/1979 Kavango	Etudiant	1,72 m	Sakaita Jones M.	Sachiombo Alda Juliana
7	MARTINHO VINDES Martinho	Angolaise	09/01/1979 Luanda	Elève	1,63 m	BAPTISTA Vindes	ESANDJU
8	VINDES Célestina Jamba	Angolaise	26/08/1983 BELA-VISTA	Elève	1,57 m	BAPTISTA Vindes	ESANDJU
9	VINDES Augusto	Angolaise	17/02/1980 Luanda	Elève	1,73 m	BAPTISTA Vindes	ESANDJU
10	ALICERCES Joaquim Ufombe Lutukuta	Angolaise	25/09/1991 Lisbonne	Elève	1,2 m	Adolosi Paulo Alicerces	Gloria Chica
11	ALICERCES Natalia	Angolaise	18/06/1986 Benguela	Elève	1,50 m	Adolosi Paulo Alicerces	Gloria Chica
12	PENA Loth M. Salupeto	Angolaise	21/09/1984 Dakar	Elève	1,51 m	PENA Salupeto	SATUMBO Lizeth
13	SAKAITA Wandy Esula	Angolaise	31/08/1986 Bié	Elève	1,40 m	Sakaita Jones	Alizra M. Fernandes
14	PAULO Filomena Claudeth	Angolaise	28/10/1986 Bié	Elève	1,20 m	Paulo Israel	Juliana Rosalina
15	SAKAITA Ismaël Mac-Mahon S.	Angolaise	31/05/1990 Bié	Elève	1,20 m	Sakaita Jones	Alzira M. Fernandes
16	PENA Ezéquiel Satumbo Salupeto	Angolaise	02/02/1991 Abidjan	Elève	1,15 m	Elias Salupeto Pena	Lizeth Satumbo
17	SAKAITA Kacekele Inocio	Angolaise	24/08/1981 Huambo	Elève	1,76 m	Sakaita Jonas	Teresa Celeste Daniel
18	SAKAITA Araujo S	Angolaise	05/06/1980	Elève	1,79 m	Sakaita Jonas	Ululi Catarina
19	PENA Edna V. Kassandali	Angolaise	21/03/1982 Bié	Elève	1,60 m	Esteves M. Pena	Adelaide K. Abel
20	SAKAITA Celita Navimbi	Angolaise	19/02/1979	Elève	1,62 m	Sakaita Jonas	Teresa Celeste Daniel
21	DEMBO Amândio Jolio	Angolaise	12/10/1980 Bengo	Elève	1,75 m	Dembo Antonio	Palmira Fernandes
22	DEMBO Antonio Sébastião	Angolaise	25/11/1980 Bengo	Elève	1,70 m	Dembo A. Sébastião	Bandua Judith
23	SAKAITA Eloi Sassandali	Angolaise	10/04/1982 Bié	Elève	1,75 m	Sakaita Jonas	Teresa Celeste Daniel
24	MULATO Helena Mbundu	Angolaise	19/11/1980 Bailundo	Elève	1,60 m	Ernesto Mulato	Inês Njambela
25	LUCAS Olga da Piedade	Angolaise	15/07/1980 Moxe	Elève	1,72 m	Lucas Bartolomeu	Abel Helena Mbundu
26	KALALA Joana Isabel	Angolaise	20/07//1982 Jamba	Elève	1,75 m	Kalala Teodoro	Joaquim Mulemba
27	ALICERCES Cathya Marina Rita	Angolaise	15/07/1985 Jamba	Elève	1,30 m	ALICERCES Paulo Mango	SAPASSA Helena
28	KASSESSE Georges Wandukeya	Angolaise	09/03/1977 Andulo	Elève	1,65 m	Kasseese Estevão	Joana Francisca
29	KALUFELE José Dias	Angolaise	28/12/1980 Kuando Kubango	Elève	1,66 m	Kalufele Jaime	Maria Dias
30	TUNGA Felizarda Feliz	Angolaise	13/11/1979 Mbanza Congo	Elève	1,63 m	Antonio T. Feliz	Maria J. Bernardo
31	KAMALATA Sebastião Dembo	Angolaise	09/03/1979 Bié	Elève	1,80 m	Kamalata Bengue	Dembo Nazare
32	ALICERCES Bartolomeu Paulo	Angolaise	14/09/1984 Jamba	Elève	1,40 m	Adolosi Paulo Mango	Gloria Chica Lutukuta
33	BONGA Aldo Pedro Paulo	Angolaise	13/04/1983 Luanda	Elève	1,65 m	Bonga Augusto Geronimo	Floresca Manuel Kenga

4	ALICERCES Paulo Bartolomeu Mango	Angolaise	10/02/1982 Jamba	Elève	1,60 m	ALICERCES Paulo Mango	SAPASSA Helena
5	KASSESSE Pedro	Angolaise	25/06/1982 Andalo	Elève	1,65 m	Kassesse Estevão	JOANA Francise
6	MUNDOMBE Joao	Angolaise	11/11/1989 Luanda	Elève	1,42 m	Moussa Dechale	Débora Chitula
7	TUNGA José Tao	Angolaise	17/08/1983 Soyo	Elève	1,58 m	Antonio Tunga Fliz	Maria D. Jacinto
8	SAKAITA Arlette Kassandali	Angolaise	28/10/1982 Kavango	Elève	1,62 m	Sakaita Jonas M.	Ulali Caterina

Annex II to the letter dated 1 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

List of relatives

No	Name	Nationality	Date and place of birth	Occupation	Height	Father's name	Mother's name
1	PENA LIZETH N Salumbo	Angolaise	26/08/1958 Malange	Company director	1.65 m	SATUMBO Ezequiel	LILIANA Dachala
2	VINDES ESANDJU R Diamantino	Angolaise	28/12/1955 BIE-ANGOLA	Hairdresser/ beautician	1,60 m	FILIPE Diamantino	CELESTINA Jamba
3	FERNANDES Alzira Maria	Angolaise	25/08/1965 Kwanza-Sul	Teacher	1,85 m	FERNANDES José Manuel	CASSABO Maria
4	SATUMBO Liliana Esperança Dachala	Angolaise	25/09/1923 Bié	Teacher	1,60 m	Maria DACHALA	Nawenga Dachala
5	MUNDOMBE Marlène Dachala	Angolaise	01/05/1962 Dondi	Nurse	1,65 m	Morais Dachala	Débora Chitula
6	SAPALALO V M Salumbo	Angolaise	21/10/1961 Cubal	Consultant	1,80 m	SAPALALO N. Cazipai	SALUMBO C. Cassova
7	BAPTISTA V João Rodrigues	Angolaise	11/11/1950 Wambo		1,86 m	SANEPO RODRIGUES	KUNJIKISE Laureta
8	GATO Luisa Lussinga	Angolaise	07/10/1979 Lusaka		1,66 m	PAULO Alberto Augusto	FERREIRA Cândida de Fátima
9	S A MY Gabriel da Fonseca	Angolaise	11/01/1979 SOYO		1,72 m	Samy Silvestre Gabriel	Anita da Fonseca Bernardino
10	JEREMIAS Dékas Dénis	Angolaise	03/05/1972 Andalo		1,90 m	Jérémias Daniel	Bernice Vnevêrê
11	TUNGA Jacinto D. B. Feliz	Angolaise	07/09/1976 Uige		1,73 m	Antonio Tunga Feliz	Maria Jacinto Bernardo
12	SAKAITA Rosa Chikumbo	Angolaise	10/12/1977 Moxico		1,58 m	Sakaita Jonas	Rosalina C. Chikumbo
13	KAPULE Domino	Angolaise					
14	KAPAMBA George	Angolaise					
15	MATUZU João Arlette	Angolaise					
16	GATO Pedro	Angolaise					
17	KANTUMBELE A. Feliz	Angolaise					
18	KAPAMBA D G Moises	Angolaise					

United Nations S/2000/515

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 1 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to our letter of 26 April 2000 (S/2000/350) in which the Democratic Republic of the Congo requested the Security Council to establish an independent expert panel to investigate the illegal exploitation of the natural resources and other wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in violation of its national sovereignty, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Council resolution 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000 that sets out the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

My Government welcomed the recommendation of the Security Council mission visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo as contained in paragraph 77 of its report of 11 May 2000 (S/2000/416) concerning the early establishment of this expert panel to take this matter forward.

My Government is in favour of the early establishment of the expert panel to investigate the illegal activities being carried out by the countries committing aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo, namely Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda, in the Congolese provinces that they currently occupy.

My Government believes that the expert panel should investigate, establish and analyse links between the illegal exploitation of the natural resources and other wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda in violation of its national sovereignty and the continuation of the war of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andre Mwamba **Kapanga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-45940 (E) 010600 010600

United Nations S/2000/516

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2000

Original: English

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council the first quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), which is submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999 (see annex).

As reflected in the body of the report, UNMOVIC has made a good start under the leadership of its very capable and experienced new Executive Chairman, Dr. Hans Blix. In order for UNMOVIC to become operational, it is essential for Iraq to start cooperating with the Commission.

00-45932 (E) 010600

Annex

First quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission under paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

Introduction

1. The present report, which is submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), covers the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Inspection and Verification Commission (UNMOVIC) in the period from 1 March to 31 May 2000.

Appointments

2. The Secretary-General, by a letter dated 26 January 2000 (S/2000/60), recommended to the Security Council that Dr. Hans Blix of Sweden be appointed Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC. The President of the Security Council responded on 27 January (S/2000/61) that the members of the Security Council approved his appointment. The Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council that he had appointed Dr. Blix effective 1 March 2000 (S/2000/90). He also informed the President that he had begun consultations on the appointment of Commissioners for UNMOVIC as called for in paragraph 5 of resolution 1284 (1999).

3. On 6 March 2000, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Jayantha Dhanapala, acting on behalf of the Secretary-General, wrote to members of the Security Council to consult on the list of Commissioners proposed by the Secretary-General, following the latter's consultation with the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC.

4. On 10 March 2000, the Secretary-General wrote to the President of the Security Council (S/2000/207) announcing that he had appointed the following persons as Commissioners for UNMOVIC:

Adigun Ade Abiodun (Nigeria)
Reinhard Böhm (Germany)
Ronald Cleminson (Canada)
Cong Guang (China)
Thérèse Delpech (France)
Robert Einhorn (United States of America)
Yuriy V. Fedotov (Russian Federation)
Kostyantyn Gryshchenko (Ukraine)
Gunterio G. Heineken (Argentina)
Hannelore Hoppe (United Nations — Department for Disarmament Affairs)
Takanori Kazuhara (Japan)
Roque Monteleone-Neto (Brazil)
Annaswamy Narayana Prasad (India)
Marjatta Rautio (Finland)
Paul Schulte (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Cheikh Sylla (Senegal)

5. The Secretary-General also indicated that Dr. Blix, in his capacity as Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, would chair meetings of the UNMOVIC College of Commissioners.

Organizational Plan

6. In paragraph 6 of resolution 1284 (1999) the Security Council requested the Executive Chairman, within 45 days of his appointment, to submit to the Council, in consultation with and through the Secretary-General, for its approval an organizational plan for UNMOVIC. The plan was transmitted to the Council by the Secretary-General on 6 April 2000 (S/2000/292 and Corr.1).

7. The members of the Security Council met in informal session on 13 April 2000 to discuss the plan. Later that day, the President of the Security Council wrote to the Secretary-General (S/2000/311) informing him that the members of the Council had discussed and, on that basis, approved the organizational plan for UNMOVIC as being in keeping with paragraph 6 of resolution 1284 (1999).

College of Commissioners

8. In accordance with the organizational plan, which provided that Commissioners be kept informed of the work of UNMOVIC, the Executive Chairman has sent three letters (14 March, 19 April, 12 May) to the Commissioners. The first letter outlined some initial thinking of the Chairman as to the requirements for UNMOVIC and its organization. The latter two concerned preparations for the first meeting of the Commission.

9. The Executive Chairman called the first meeting of the Commissioners on 23 and 24 May 2000. In addition to the members of the College, the Chairman also invited the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to designate representatives to attend the meeting of the Commissioners as observers. Jacques Baute, Team Leader of the IAEA-Iraq Action Team and Ruth Mohlenkamp, Head of the Policy and Review Branch, Verification Division, OPCW, attended the meeting.

10. On the basis of briefings by the Executive Chairman and other personnel on the activities of the last three months, the College of Commissioners discussed, commented on and made suggestions on the question of possible operational procedures for UNMOVIC, the recruitment and training of personnel and the Joint Unit for Export/Import Monitoring, including the revision of the lists to which the mechanism applies. Briefings were also offered by the IAEA observer on the activities of the Agency under Security Council resolution 1284 (1999). A briefing was given as well by one of the members of the College of Commissioners on the role of overhead imagery. The Commissioners also examined informal guidelines which will be followed in the work of the College.

11. In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1284 (1999), the UNMOVIC College of Commissioners was consulted on the contents of the present report. The College set 23 and 24 August 2000 as the dates for its next meeting.

Recruitment of personnel

12. In anticipation of the approval of the organizational plan of UNMOVIC, the Executive Chairman had written a letter on 13 March 2000 to all Member States and the Permanent Observer of Switzerland seeking assistance in identifying potentially interested candidates in the specialties of relevance to UNMOVIC. The response has been encouraging. In addition many individuals also offered their candidacies for consideration.

13. The Executive Chairman is currently engaged in interviewing potential staff members for UNMOVIC. At this stage, as noted in paragraph 8 of the organizational plan, the Executive Chairman intends to adopt a step-wise approach to recruitment, with the initial emphasis on the core staff needed in New York.

14 Appointments have recently been offered to a number of candidates for senior positions and further offers for core staff will be made in the following months.

Premises

15. In the organizational plan (S/2000/292 and Corr.1), approved by the Security Council on 13 April, the Executive Chairman mentioned that discussions were under way for the establishment of a field office in Bahrain for the use of UNMOVIC and IAEA. Those discussions have continued and a draft agreement on behalf of the United Nations and IAEA has been presented to the Government of Bahrain for a field office in Al-Muharraq, for an initial six-month period.

16. At UNMOVIC headquarters in New York, the limited office space available remains a problem and, if continued, will adversely affect the working environment and proper implementation of the tasks of the Commission. This issue has been raised with the Secretary-General and has resulted in the offer of limited office space in the DC-2 building of the United Nations Secretariat. It is planned to station the Commission's Joint Export/Import Unit in this new office space. However, these premises will not be sufficient by far to accommodate the full complement of UNMOVIC staff envisaged.

Ongoing activities

17. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1051 (1996) of 27 March 1996, the Export/Import Joint Unit continues to receive notifications from States and international organizations of exports to Iraq of dual-use goods subject to the provisions of that resolution. Despite its obligations under that resolution, the Government of Iraq has not provided UNMOVIC with any notifications during the period under review. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Commission and IAEA have reconstituted the Joint Unit at the headquarters of the Commission in New York and continued the revision and updating of the lists of items to which the export/import monitoring mechanism applies.

Training

18. In resolution 1284 (1999) the Security Council requested the Executive Chairman to arrange for the provision of high-quality technical and cultural training for UNMOVIC personnel. Accordingly a training programme has been drawn up to ensure that enough personnel are trained to establish, as soon as possible, a

sufficient pool of experts to be available for work related to inspection and monitoring in Iraq on behalf of the United Nations.

19. Under the curriculum circulated to the members of the College of Commissioners, UNMOVIC training is to include historical, legal, administrative and political issues related to weapons inspections and monitoring activities in Iraq, as well as the historical and cultural background of Iraq. Lessons from past inspection and monitoring activities are included. This planned training course will also cover general operational health and safety. Additionally, there will be discipline-specific (ballistic missiles, chemical weapons, biological weapons and export/import) training. The first UNMOVIC training course has been planned to run for some four weeks, starting in July 2000.

United Nations S/2000/517

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 1 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of June 2000 and on behalf of the members of the League of Arab States, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 1 June 2000 from the Minister for External Relations of the Sudan, Mr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, addressed to you (S/2000/513, annex), in which he requests the Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on the Sudan given that the country has met all of its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I should like to assure you that, taking account of the positive and constructive efforts made by the Sudan to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the Arab Group strongly supports the Sudan's request that the sanctions be lifted. The Arab Group hopes that the Council will consider this question on an urgent basis with a view to lifting the sanctions as soon as possible.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group

00-45981 (E) 010600 010600

United Nations S/2000/518

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my interim report on the situation in Tajikistan (S/2000/214) of 14 March 2000 in which I stated my intention, which members of the Security Council supported (S/PRST/2000/9), to inform the Council, at a later stage, on a role for the United Nations in the period of post-conflict peace-building and consolidation in Tajikistan.

As members of the Security Council are aware, the peace process in Tajikistan has progressed considerably and has brought about restoration of normalcy to a large degree. However, the deep-seated roots of the civil conflict in Tajikistan have not yet been fully addressed. The potential for renewed upheaval remains, owing to domestic factors and in view of the unstable situation in the region, notably in Afghanistan. In view of those circumstances, Tajikistan requires continued support from the international community. I therefore propose that a United Nations Peace-building Support Office be established in Tajikistan for a limited time to pursue the objectives of post-conflict peace-building and consolidation of peace. The Government of Tajikistan has been consulted on this proposal and supports it.

The Office would be entrusted with the following mandate:

(a) To provide the political framework and leadership for post-conflict peace-building activities of the United Nations system in the country. This would include supporting the efforts of the Resident Coordinator and the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in promoting an integrated approach to the development and implementation of post-conflict peace-building programmes aimed at national reconstruction, economic recovery, poverty alleviation and good governance;

(b) To mobilize, in close cooperation with the United Nations country team, international support for the implementation of targeted programmes aimed at strengthening the rule of law, demobilization, voluntary arms collection and employment creation for former irregular fighters;

(c) To help in creating an enabling environment for consolidating peace, democracy and the rule of law;

(d) To liaise with the Government, political parties and other representatives of civic society in broadening national consensus and reconciliation.

00-45993 (E) 020600

In the light of the above, I recommend that the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Tajikistan be headed by a Representative of the Secretary-General at the D-2 level who will be assisted by a small team of internationally recruited professional and support staff. The Peace-building Support Office in Tajikistan would be established for an initial period of one year from 1 June 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

United Nations S/2000/519

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 1 June 2000 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the letter dated 26 May 2000 (S/2000/518) in which you proposed to establish a United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Tajikistan for an initial period of one year starting on 1 June 2000 has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council, who took note of it with appreciation.

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
President of the Security Council

00-45999 (E) 020600 020600

United Nations S/2000/520

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2000

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1281 (1999)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1281 (1999) of 10 December 1999. It provides information up to 30 April 2000 on the distribution of humanitarian supplies throughout Iraq, including the implementation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme in the three northern governorates of Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. It also describes developments in the implementation of the programme since the period covered by the report submitted on 10 March 2000 (S/2000/208).

2. On 29 March 2000, I appointed Tun Myat as the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq. He arrived in Baghdad on 30 April. In February 2000, Umaru B. Wurie and John Almstrom were appointed Deputy Humanitarian Coordinators in the United Nations Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, in Baghdad and Erbil, respectively.

II. Revenue generation, procurement and distribution to end-users

A. Oil production and sale of petroleum and petroleum products

3. Since the beginning of phase VII and as at 30 April 2000, the oil overseer and the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) have reviewed and approved a total of 100 contracts involving purchasers from 36 countries: Algeria (1); Belarus (2); Belgium (1); Brazil (1); China (6); Cyprus (1); Egypt (1); Greece (1); Finland (2); France (4); India (1); Italy (5); Kenya (1); Malaysia (2); Morocco (2); Netherlands (1); Nigeria (1); Oman (1); Panama (1); Romania (1); Russian Federation (20); Singapore (1); South Africa (1); Spain (5); Sudan (1); Switzerland (10); Thailand (2); Tunisia (3); Turkey (6); Ukraine (1); United Arab Emirates (3); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (5); United States of America (2); Venezuela (1); Viet Nam (2); and Yemen (1).

4. The total quantity of oil approved for export under those contracts corresponds to approximately 351.3 million barrels for 180 days, about 40 million barrels less than during the previous phase. Nevertheless, owing to higher oil prices, total revenue projected for the whole 180-day period will reach $8.4 billion (including the pipeline fees; if current prices remain and all contracted volume is lifted), the highest revenue level ever generated during a given phase.

5. Export of petroleum from Iraq under the current phase has proceeded smoothly, with excellent cooperation among all the parties involved. A total of 202 loadings, 247.7 million barrels in all, with an estimated value of $5.892 billion have been completed. About 42 per cent of the liftings have been made at Ceyhan, Turkey.

6. The oil overseer has continued to advise and assist the Security Council Committee on pricing mechanisms, contract approval and modifications and other pertinent questions related to exports and monitoring, under resolution 986 (1995) and all subsequent relevant resolutions. The overseer and Saybolt have worked closely to ensure the monitoring of the relevant oil installations as well as the liftings.

00-45372 (E) 020600

7. It is a matter of serious concern that, since 1 July 1999, there has been only one oil overseer in the service of the Iraq programme, owing to the inability of the Security Council Committee to agree on the selection of other overseers. Accordingly, there is a need for urgent action in that regard in order to avoid the possibility of disruption to the implementation of the programme, particularly with regard to the processing of contracts for the sale of oil.

Oil exports from Iraq

8. The *modus operandi* for the inspection of oil exports originating from Iraq remained unchanged. During the current phase, 14 independent inspection agents for oil (Saybolt) were on site and based at Mina al-Bakr and Zakho, in Iraq, and at Ceyhan in Turkey.

Mina al-Bakr

9. As at 16 May 2000, a total net volume of 166,585,750 barrels of Basrah light oil had been loaded from Mina al-Bakr during the reporting period, averaging 1.1 million barrels per day. This is a decrease of 22.8 million barrels over the same number of days in the previous phase. Maximum achievable loading rate remains at approximately 88,000 barrels per hour. Rates below this level have been frequently noted, because of mechanical failure at shore and production problems further upstream.

10. Equipment malfunction or breakdown is dealt with by local repair, using cannibalized parts where necessary. On this basis, deterioration of equipment and working systems is unavoidable. Operation of the main hydraulic systems remains inefficient, which continues to be a cause of pollution and a safety hazard on the terminal platforms and walkways. Lack of operational communications, monitoring systems and other controls continue to raise serious concerns over the safe operation of the terminal. The supply of two tugs late in 1999 has improved vessels' berthing operations. However, the terminal continues to operate without mooring boats and the tugs must be used for crew change and supply purposes.

11. As stated in a previous report (S/1999/1162), the continuing deterioration of conditions at the Mina al-Bakr oil-loading terminal remains a major concern. The terminal continues to operate with no improvement in the conditions relating to safety and hygiene of personnel, with insufficient and uncertified safety equipment, and a lack of safety procedures. Fresh food supplies are poor in quality and there is a lack of variety. All terminal garbage and waste continue to be disposed of into the sea. Water supply, particularly for drinking, continues to be a problem.

Botas Terminal, Ceyhan, Turkey

12. Transfer of Kirkuk crude oil from Iraq to Turkey via the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline has continued throughout the period; stoppages noted were due to power failures, usually on the Turkish side of the line; transfer has averaged around 750,000 barrels per day.

13. The flow of oil from Iraq to Turkey is continuously monitored at both the border crossing point at Zakho and into the storage tanks at Ceyhan. A daily reconciliation of these volumes is made to ensure that no crude oil can be diverted.

14. As at 16 May 2000, the volume of oil loaded to vessels at Ceyhan, under the supervision of Saybolt, was 117,269,850 barrels during the reporting period. This is a decrease of 25.68 million barrels over the same number of days in the previous phase.

B. United Nations accounts pertaining to the Iraq programme

15. The United Nations accounts pertaining to the Iraq programme are divided into seven separate funds pursuant to paragraphs 8 (a) to (g) of Security Council resolution 986 (1995). As at 30 April 2000, $4,606.1 million had been deposited into the account for phase VII as authorized under resolutions 1281 (1999) and 1284 (1999), bringing the total oil sale since the inception of the programme to $25,341.9 million. Annex I to the present report shows the allocation of the total oil revenue among the various funds and the corresponding expenditures as at 30 April 2000. Annex II shows the number and value of the letters of credit pertaining to oil proceeds and humanitarian supplies.

C. Prioritization, processing and approval of applications, delivery to Iraq and distribution to end-users

General

16. The Office of the Iraq Programme has taken all necessary steps to implement expeditiously the relevant

recommendations and directives contained in my last report (S/2000/208) as well as the relevant provisions of resolution 1284 (1999).

17. Pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 1284 (1999), the lists of humanitarian items submitted by the Office of the Iraq Programme, including foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, as well as basic or standard medical and agricultural equipment and basic educational items, were approved by the Security Council Committee on 22 February 2000, for food and educational items, and on 29 March 2000, for health and agricultural items. All four approved lists have been posted on the web site of the Office of the Iraq Programme. Since the approval of the lists, a total of 433 contracts, with a total value of about $950 million, have been processed by the Office, as at 31 May 2000, in full compliance with paragraph 17 of resolution 1284 (1999). The Office has been keeping the approved lists under constant review and, in consultation with the United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as with the technical ministries of Iraq, will submit to the Security Council Committee lists of additional items for its consideration and approval.

18. The Office of the Iraq Programme organized special briefings for the permanent and observer missions and the United Nations agencies and programmes on 27 and 31 March, respectively, in order to acquaint them with the approved procedures under paragraph 17 of resolution 1284 (1999). Similar briefings were also provided during April and May for the United Nations agencies and programmes in Amman, Baghdad and Erbil. The permanent and observer missions have also been requested to encourage suppliers to maximize the use of the electronic format in submitting their applications. The Office has been contacting applicant missions on a case-by-case basis to suggest resubmission of lengthy or complex applications in electronic format in order to accelerate processing.

19. In paragraph 18 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Security Council requested the Committee to appoint, in accordance with resolutions 1175 (1998) and 1210 (1998), a group of experts, including independent inspection agents appointed by the Secretary-General, to approve speedily contracts for oil spare parts and equipment, according to lists of parts and equipment approved by the Committee for each individual project. The Committee approved procedures for the implementation of paragraph 18 of the resolution, submitted by the Office of the Iraq Programme, on 25 April 2000, and the experts to serve on the group were endorsed on 16 May 2000. The experts, comprising three customs experts, one oil industry expert and one engineering expert, will work within the Office of the Iraq Programme. The Office will submit lists of oil spare parts and equipment to the Committee for its consideration and approval during the first week in June. It is anticipated that the group of experts will begin its work on 15 June 2000, subject to the approval of the lists by the Committee. The experts will review applications for the purchase of oil spare parts and equipment, in accordance with paragraphs 18 and 25 of resolution 1284 (1999) and the approved procedures.

20. Pursuant to paragraph 25 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Office of the Iraq Programme has continued reporting to the Security Council Committee on all applications containing items notifiable under resolution 1051 (1996). The review mechanism has been working efficiently and appears to have contributed to limiting the number of holds imposed for technical specifications. This can be attributed to the fact that adequate technical information must be obtained by the Secretariat prior to circulation of an application to the Committee, to determine whether the item is on the resolution 1051 (1996) list.

21. The Office of the Iraq Programme has further intensified its efforts to assist the Security Council Committee in reducing the number of applications placed on hold by the Committee. While several of these initiatives already appear to be yielding positive results, the number of holds has remained very high, with 1,203 applications on hold, with a total value of $1,956,603,150, as at 30 April 2000. Beginning on 14 April 2000, under cover of separate letters addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee, the Executive Director of the Iraq Programme submitted to the Committee the lists of all applications on hold, for each of the eight sectors contained in the distribution plans, providing comprehensive information, gathered in full consultation with the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator and the United Nations agencies and programmes concerned, with an indication, where possible, of their order of priority, as well as information on the impact of the holds and follow-up action taken by the Office of the Iraq Programme. The cooperation of the Government of Iraq was also sought in the determination of the relative priorities of the

applications on hold, as well as their respective impact on the implementation of the programme.

22. I welcome the Security Council Committee's decision to hold a series of meetings in each sector to review further the list of applications placed on hold. The first of these meetings, covering the agriculture and water and sanitation sectors, were held on 26 April and 10 May, with the participation of the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Iraq. It is expected that another meeting will be held in the first week of June concerning the health sector. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Iraq briefed the Committee on 25 May. As a result of the meetings on the agriculture and water and sanitation sectors, the value of holds in these two sectors declined by more than 20 per cent, from $317 million on 14 April to $273 million on 19 May. During that period, the number of applications on hold in these two sectors declined from 150 to 115.

23. The Office of the Iraq Programme has responded to the growing need to systematize the supply of warranty or replacement goods for items previously approved and delivered to Iraq. Under new procedures, all goods for replacement as specified in a contract must be presented as a correction to the original application for approval by the Committee. This information has been posted on the Office of the Iraq Programme web site.

24. As noted in paragraph 110 of my last report (S/2000/208), the staff resources of the Office of the Iraq Programme had to be kept under close review as a further dramatic increase in workload was expected once paragraphs 17, 18 and 25 of resolution 1284 (1999) were fully implemented. In order to have the capacity to fully implement the relevant provisions of resolution 1284 (1999), a new staffing table has been approved for the Contracts Processing Section of the Office, which includes five staff members at the Professional level, 15 customs or other technical experts, and 34 General Service support staff. Recruitment has started and has already had a positive impact in greatly reducing the number of applications awaiting processing and customs review.

ESB (53 per cent) account

25. During the reporting period, the Office of the Iraq Programme has processed applications submitted under phases IV to VII. As at 30 April 2000, 7,103 applications, with a total value of $13,061,276,367, had been received for all phases. Of these, 4,961 applications, with a total value of $9,407,675,725, have been approved by the Security Council Committee or processed by the Office in accordance with paragraph 17 of resolution 1284 (1999). Supplies from 4,767 applications, with a total value of $8.071 billion, have been delivered to Iraq, including oil spare parts and equipment.

26. Submissions of applications for phase VII have been slow for most sectors, with a total of only 843 applications valued at about $1.9 billion, including just under $1.1 billion for foodstuffs, received by the Office of the Iraq Programme. On 10 April 2000, the Executive Director of the Iraq Programme drew the attention of the Permanent Representative of Iraq to this situation and reiterated his appeal for more expeditious contracting and submission of applications. Although increased staffing and streamlined evaluation procedures within the Office of the Iraq Programme have enabled the Office to reduce the large volume of applications under review, with the large number of outstanding phase VII applications expected for submission towards the end of the current phase, the delays in processing are bound to be unavoidable.

ESC (13 per cent) account

27. As at 30 April 2000, of the 3,272 applications submitted by United Nations agencies and programmes, 3,093 with a total value of $788.7 million were approved or processed in accordance with paragraph 17 of resolution 1284 (1999); 28, with a total value of $4.3 million, were placed on hold; while another 28, worth $10.7 million, were under evaluation and processing.

III. Observation and monitoring activities

A. Inspection and authentication of humanitarian supplies

28. The United Nations independent inspection agent, Cotecna Inspection S.A., continued to authenticate the arrival of humanitarian supplies at the entry points at Al-Walid, Trebil, Umm Qasr and Zakho, and to report on the arrival of humanitarian supplies procured under

the ESC (13 per cent) account by the United Nations agencies and programmes for the governorates of Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. Expedited sampling and testing has continued on a trial basis with laboratories in Jordan and Turkey, in the absence of agreement by the Government of Iraq to the stationing of mobile testing laboratories at entry points.

29. Cotecna and the Multidisciplinary Observation Unit have been reporting on further deterioration of facilities at the port of Umm Qasr, which could jeopardize logistics channels in particular for the discharge and forward delivery of bulk commodities such as foodstuffs. Umm Qasr receives 70 per cent of food commodities and 54 per cent of other commodities imported under the programme. Additional applications have been submitted to prevent further deterioration of the port's facilities.

30. It is anticipated that, in June, a four-week trial will begin to ascertain the viability of new arrangements for effecting the electronic transmission of authentication data from all four sites. These new arrangements should substantially reduce the time taken to confirm authentication of the delivery of goods and expedite the payment procedure.

B. Monitoring of oil spare parts and equipment

31. Oil spare parts and equipment under phases IV to VII have continued to arrive in Iraq at an increasing pace. As at 25 May 2000, a total of 551 complete contracts have arrived in the country, comprising a total value of $227,528,765, out of a total allocation of $1.8 billion for these four phases. In addition, there are some 76 contracts for which there are outstanding letters of discrepancy issued by the Government of Iraq to the suppliers regarding quality problems, incorrect items, missing items, etc. These are listed, per site, in the weekly monitoring report, and as they are not fully delivered, they are considered incomplete contracts. The value of these 76 incomplete contracts is $59,668,836.

32. The number of monitors for oil spare parts and equipment deployed in Iraq has remained at six, working from a permanent base in Baghdad. Currently, an average of 22 storage sites and end-use facilities are visited on a weekly basis. During these visits, monitors carry out documentary checks and physical inspections on the spare parts and equipment that have arrived and/or been installed.

33. In the course of these visits, it has been observed that full storage capacity at most warehouses, notably Basrah, has been reached. This is due, in part, to the fact that the utilization of certain goods in storage is dependent upon the availability of complementary items that have yet to arrive in the country. Furthermore, installation of the equipment is delayed by the lack of skilled labour and also a shortage of funds to hire what skilled labour exists in Iraq.

34. The lack of adequate transport, and the shortage of funds to hire private transport, continues to affect the pace of distribution of equipment, and further exacerbates the lack of storage space at certain facilities.

35. Special monitoring procedures, as established by the Office of the Iraq Programme, have been put into place to observe the distribution and utilization of certain items for which close, special monitoring is required. Such cases include the intelligent pigging of the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline, monitoring the export of electric motors up to shipment and inspection while under repair in Turkey, monitoring the export of gas turbines shipped to the United Kingdom for repair, the inspection upon delivery of tugboats and survival craft, and visits to the construction site of oil storage tanks at Kirkuk to confirm the arrival of materials and the commencement of construction.

36. Monitors continue to travel widely and freely through Iraq, having covered in excess of 200,000 kilometres to date. They continue to receive the full cooperation of the Government of Iraq.

C. United Nations observation mechanism

37. In an effort to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations observation mechanism, a number of measures are being instituted to provide, within the framework of resolution 986 (1995), the required assurances that supplies arriving in Iraq are utilized for the purposes authorized by the Security Council Committee. The Committee was briefed on 25 April on the new measures, which include the redeployment of United Nations observation personnel, employment of specialist consultants, streamlining and consolidating observation activities under the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator, and developing special

observation procedures to provide the Security Council Committee with regularly updated information on the results of tracking items of special interest. These measures are aimed at facilitating a reduction in the number of applications currently on hold, and which require detailed end-use/end-user information. As at 30 April 2000, special observation and/or monitoring procedures had been authorized for 28 applications for humanitarian supplies and 44 applications for oil spare parts and equipment. The quarterly observation plan has also been revised to provide greater detail on planned tasks.

38. Although United Nations observation activities have proceeded smoothly during the reporting period, by and large, difficulties continue to be experienced in obtaining escorts from the relevant ministries, which has curtailed observation in the agriculture, water and sanitation and education sectors. The system of issuing vehicle and driver-specific travel permits by the Government of Iraq, for predetermined travel routes only, has been an additional hindrance for observation activities. The Geographical Observation Unit also reported difficulties in collecting statistical information at governorate level. (See annex III for the number of observation visits per sector.)

IV. Programme implementation: effectiveness, equitability and adequacy

39. In the reporting period, positive developments included the first distribution of targeted nutrition inputs. Improvements were also seen with regard to the provision of cold chain vehicles and equipment in the health sector; a threatened outbreak of polio was successfully contained. Recent arrivals of warehouse equipment and vehicles will improve logistics in the health and education sectors. Holds were lifted from urgently needed water purification chemicals. Nevertheless, in general, implementation in all sectors of the programme under the ESB (53 per cent) account has been adversely affected by the slow rate of contracting by the Government of Iraq under phase VII, the large number of contracts placed on hold by the Security Council Committee, particularly in food handling, water and sanitation, electricity, transport and telecommunications, as well as by the inadequacies of the distribution networks.

A. Implementation of the programme in the centre and south of Iraq

Food

40. Wheat stocks remain low, despite slight improvements since February 2000. The available stocks of pulses will not be adequate to provide coverage for a month. This situation is caused by late contracting and slow arrival of commodities. The Office of the Iraq Programme and the World Food Programme (WFP), in consultation with the Government of Iraq, are reviewing the food distribution network and will recommend measures to improve its effectiveness.

41. Although the target under the phase VII distribution plan was to provide a food basket of 2,330 kilocalories and 52 grams of protein per person per day, the food basket distributed during the reporting period averaged 1,991 kilocalories and 42.6 grams of protein per person per day for reasons outlined in paragraph 40 above. This covered 85 per cent of energy and 81 per cent of protein requirements envisaged. As at 30 April 2000, of the 37 monthly distribution cycles since the start of the programme, the targeted food basket requirements were met in only six. In view of the low stocks of wheat, the Government provided 43 per cent of the flour ration from its stocks obtained outside the programme. Observations made by the Geographical Observation Unit have confirmed equitable distribution of the food basket to registered beneficiaries. The Government of Iraq has recently requested greater quantities of wheat, rice and sugar, with the intention of increasing the amounts distributed in the food basket.

42. In the food-handling sub-sector, two contracts for the facilities at Umm Qasr port were approved: one for a cutter-suction dredger, and another for two 40-ton forklifts. However, the urgently needed fire-fighting vehicles, fixed generators for the electricity supply, and marine generators for tugboats and dredgers have remained on hold. Between 15 April and 19 May 2000, 29 food-handling applications worth $164.1 million were released from hold. However, in the same period, 16 applications worth $170 million were placed on hold.

43. The 749 trucks delivered since the inception of the programme have replaced only part of the existing, ageing fleet of some 7,000 trucks. Under phases VI and

VII, 32 contracts worth $45.3 million have been approved, and four contracts worth $12.9 million remain on hold. Rehabilitation of the railway system continues to be hampered by the large number of contracts on hold valued at $77 million. Twelve contracts worth $2.4 million remain on hold for Ministry of Trade food laboratories, which are needed to ensure adequate quality testing. Many mills and silos are in a serious state of deterioration; it is estimated that 70 per cent of such facilities will need to be replaced in the near future. With regard to the impact of spare parts imported under the programme on the operations of mills and silos, Geographical Observation Unit analysis indicates that on average some 15 per cent of the requirements of silos and some 30 per cent of the requirements of mills have been met.

Health and nutrition

44. The number of contracts on hold has increased and, as at 30 April 2000, 109 applications valued at $168.6 million were on hold. These holds have had a negative impact on health-care service delivery, particularly for local drug production by Samara Drug Industries (SDI). As at 14 May 2000, over $28.3 million worth of applications for SDI were on hold. These contracts remain on hold in the absence of information from the Government of Iraq to the Security Council Committee.

45. The stock balance of medical supplies provided under the programme at the central warehouses, as at 30 April 2000, was $251.7 million, of which 14.7 per cent constituted buffer stock. Between November 1999 and April 2000, buffer stock had decreased from 16.8 to 14.7 per cent, while the percentage of items undergoing quality control increased from 3.9 to 9.2 per cent, because of arrivals in March and April 2000.

46. The World Health Organization reported that some distribution bottlenecks have been resolved. The arrival of 62 cold chain trucks and 35 prefabricated cold stores should improve both the storage capacity at central and governorate warehouses, and the distribution of supplies. The recent arrival of forklifts has slightly eased handling constraints at warehouses. However, telecommunication difficulties continued between central and governorate warehouses, and between warehouses and health facilities. Furthermore, low-capacity computers at central warehouses are insufficient to handle the volume of data, which also hampers observation. Contracts for central warehouse computers remain on hold, awaiting the provision by the Government of Iraq of additional information requested by the Committee.

47. Hospital in-patients have continued to receive the full course of treatment where drugs have been available in adequate quantities. However, patients in public clinics, health insurance clinics and health centres have continued to receive, in general, only partial courses of treatment because of insufficient quantities contracted, late arrivals, lengthy quality assurance procedures for certain categories of drugs, and continuing distribution problems. WHO warns that resistant bacterial strains could emerge as a consequence of the continuous dispensing of only partial treatment of anti-bacterial drugs to patients.

48. Drugs for the treatment of chronic illnesses valued at $6 million have been approved but not yet received, and a further $500,000 of supplies have failed quality testing. The quantities of these drugs ordered by the Ministry of Health are below the monthly caseload requirements and were not met by local production. Since the beginning of the programme, $26.6 million worth of anti-cancer drugs had arrived in the country as at 30 April 2000, of which a quantity worth $13.3 million (50 per cent) had been distributed. WHO attributes this low distribution rate to the recent arrival of a large volume of supplies and the long periods required for quality testing (21.2 per cent were undergoing quality testing). Radioactive pharmaceuticals valued at $1.1 million have also been distributed to cancer treatment centres.

49. During the review period, there were six confirmed polio cases, five in December 1999 indicating a potential epidemic. Subsequent evidence suggests that the polio outbreak is ending because of national immunization campaigns in October and November 1999, and in March and April 2000.

50. The distribution and use of ambulances under the programme has greatly restored the ambulance emergency services countrywide. Nearly all major hospitals and 24-hour emergency centres now have at least one functioning ambulance.

51. In the targeted nutrition sub-sector, as at 30 April 2000, high protein biscuits valued at $5.3 million, contracted under phase IV, had arrived, of which $3.1 million had been distributed to sub-warehouses for distribution to the 961 existing primary health-care facilities and community child-care units. The first

shipment of 1,500 tons of therapeutic milk under phase IV arrived only in April. The Government of Iraq had submitted seven contracts worth $27.9 million under phases IV to VI for high protein biscuits and therapeutic milk.

52. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that the expansion of the network of community-based health facilities participating in the programme has progressed well. As at 30 April 2000, there were 2,182 community child-care units, 820 primary health-care facilities, and 67 nutrition rehabilitation centres. However, the delayed arrival of therapeutic milk supplies has adversely affected the implementation strategy. Infrastructure and logistic constraints have also affected the implementation of the targeted nutrition programme, reducing its effectiveness.

53. A recent UNICEF nutrition status survey of children under 2 years of age showed little if any change in malnutrition rates, in comparison with the results of similar surveys carried out in 1997 and 1998. There was a slight reduction in the prevalence of underweight, while stunting and wasting had stabilized at still unacceptably high rates of 13.8 per cent and 9.2 per cent, respectively.

Water and sanitation

54. Of the $702 million worth of contracts submitted to the Security Council Committee for the water and sanitation sector as at 30 April 2000, $447 million (63.8 per cent) had been approved, and $168 million (23.4 per cent) remained on hold. Urgently needed repair and maintenance works of water and sanitation facilities have been delayed because of contracts placed on hold.

55. The undistributed stocks at the central and governorate warehouses were valued at $38.6 million. Of the total, 4.7 per cent was buffer stock. Distribution was hampered largely by logistic problems. Under phases I to VII, contracts for vehicles and spare parts worth $52.3 million were submitted of which $30.4 million were approved and $7.4 million remain on hold.

56. The Baghdad Water and Sewerage Authority received 2,462 tons of chlorine since the beginning of the programme, of which 2,218 tons (90 per cent) had been utilized. Similarly, the General Establishment for Water and Sewerage received 5,250 tons of chlorine, of which 3,815 tons (72.6 per cent) had been utilized. The daily chlorine utilization rates for the Authority and the General Establishment are six and nine tons, respectively. As at 30 April 2000, the available chlorine stock at Authority and General Establishment warehouses was adequate for 40 days and approximately five months, respectively.

57. A comparison of the average percentage of failed samples for bacteriological analysis between 1999 and the first four months of this year indicates a slight reduction in all but 4 of the 15 central and southern governorates. Chlorine test levels also revealed a slight improvement in all the central and southern governorates, except Baghdad. As a direct result of the drought, the reduction of water levels in surface water bodies, which constitute 95 per cent of drinking water resources in the centre and south of Iraq, is having a crippling effect on water treatment plants. An assessment conducted by UNICEF on the utilization of supplies for water treatment plants in four governorates indicated that, while the efficiency of the plants had increased marginally (4 and 8 per cent), the improvement was negated by lengthy power cuts and that this improvement was not tangible at the end-user level, because of the deterioration of the water distribution network.

Agriculture

58. As at 30 April 2000, irrigation supplies constituted 16 per cent of contracts concluded for this sub-sector. As a direct consequence of 23 contracts on hold, valued at $99 million, 453,523 hectares of land previously irrigated has not been irrigated, the capacity of the canals has been reduced to 13,410,000 cubic metres for both irrigation and drainage water, the capacity of the on-farm irrigation water application systems has been reduced by 57,519,560 m^3 of pumped water, and the 70 deep wells, which would have the potential to supply 43,278,400 m^3 of water needed for both human and livestock consumption, have not been drilled. Programme inputs have permitted the installation of 208 new pumping units, the lining of earth canals, the partial maintenance of structures at irrigation projects and water storage dams, and the drilling of 88 new tube wells.

59. The distribution rate in the poultry sub-sector was 87 per cent. As at 30 April 2000, supplies totalling $51.7 million had arrived and $45 million had been distributed. Poultry production under the programme,

partly supported by Government inputs, yielded 175 million table eggs and 32,500 tons of frozen chicken meat. Contracts valued at $9 million were on hold for this sub-sector, adversely affecting production.

60. In the veterinary sub-sector, the cumulative value of delivered supplies amounted to $27.5 million as at 30 April 2000, of which supplies worth $19.1 million (69.4 per cent) had been distributed to end-users. The increased rate of distribution has helped to improve the availability of veterinary drugs and vaccines to end-users.

61. The drought continues to have devastating effects for both livestock and crop production. Only an estimated 150 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in the centre and south of Iraq during 1999-2000, reducing crop production in the rain-fed and irrigated areas. According to FAO, during the coming summer season only the cultivation of vegetables will remain unrestricted, while areas normally used for rice and corn cultivation will remain fallow. According to official reports, as a result of the drought vegetable production has decreased by 50 per cent and fruit production by 20 per cent, compared to 1998 levels.

62. In the agricultural machinery sub-sector, $144.6 million worth of items had arrived since the beginning of the programme, of which $91.9 million (63.6 per cent) had been distributed. Some 33 per cent of items in stock constituted spare parts. This high percentage is largely due to the fact that agro-machinery inputs are imported with their spare parts, which may not be needed immediately and are distributed on an on-demand basis only. However, in order to improve spare parts distribution, the Government has introduced a new system using private agents. Agro-machinery contracts valued at $44.4 million are on hold, including $3 million for harvesters and spare parts for combines, which are critical for the wheat and barley harvest.

63. Plant production supplies worth $17.6 million had been received as at 30 April 2000, of which $7.8 million (44.3 per cent) had been distributed. Supplies in stock for plant production remained at 38.6 per cent of total arrivals, and 56 per cent of plant production arrivals because of the low distribution rate of agro-chemicals, seeds and fertilizers following the severe drought during two consecutive years. There is an immediate requirement for fungicides to control the spread of fungal infections, particularly in potatoes and citrus trees.

Electricity

64. The precarious state of the electricity sector, combined with the effects of the drought, is undermining efforts in all the other sectors of the humanitarian programme. The power generation capacity has further declined and the current power availability is about 50 per cent of the demand, affecting all types of consumers and services. An average of 12-hour daily power cuts have continued to be applied in 14 central and southern governorates, while in Baghdad governorate the current average daily power cut is four hours per day.

65. Electricity contracts valued at $494.7 million were on hold as at 30 April 2000. As a result, together with the long lead time required for the manufacturing of equipment, the implementation of some vital projects has been considerably delayed. The completion of rehabilitation work at the Nassiriya power plant is being hampered by the hold on two contracts, and may cause the loss of up to 840 megawatts urgently required for the coming summer. Holds are delaying work on new generating units, which would add 426 MW of generating capacity. Safety and communication equipment will improve the safety of personnel in the sector and enhance programme implementation. The ongoing drought has resulted in an 81 per cent reduction in hydroelectric power generation.

66. At Mussaib power plant, the installation and commissioning of a 400-MVA transformer for one of the units was completed successfully and the turbine was repaired. The performance of all units could be improved with the release from hold of contracts covering turbine-associated equipment. At Dura power plant, the first consignment of supplies for the rehabilitation of three generating units arrived at the end of January 2000. Upon the completion of rehabilitation works by August 2000, the output is expected to be 75 MW. Three hundred field service vehicles were delivered to the distribution and transmission offices. The arrival of cable boxes made possible the connection of the 400-kV line at Qadissiya hydroelectric power station and the 132-kV line in Mosul to the national grid. In Basrah, a new 40-kilometre 11-kV feeder was installed from Shuaiba sub-station to Al Shemal residential area, to serve more than 300 households.

Education

67. The total number of applications placed on hold in the education sector as at 30 April 2000 was 91, with a total value of $74 million.

68. The priority need for the Ministry of Higher Education remains the procurement of computers and specialized equipment, including various types of laboratory sets. However, most applications submitted to the Security Council Committee for these items remain on hold.

69. Of the sole consignment of computers received for the Ministry of Education, an average of 45 computers and one printer were allocated per governorate, allowing on average only four computers and one uninterrupted power supply per selected secondary school. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reported that computers were being set up in schools or facilities rehabilitated for their installation and that curriculum development was under way. Also, as a pilot project, one secondary school was being used as a training centre for teachers using 10 of the computers received. Moreover, a commercial course and a general computer class for girls were being developed for the next academic year, following teacher training.

70. Shortages of transportation from the central vocational, teaching aids and printing press warehouses have persisted. The Ministry of Education recently received 40 trucks, which should cover 30 per cent of their transportation needs. Pick-up vehicles and trucks ordered under phases IV to VI, once received, are expected to meet all the transportation needs of the Ministry. Some $16 million worth of vehicles and spare parts have been approved for the Ministry of Higher Education.

71. The rehabilitation of the Ministry of Education printing presses continues to be hindered by the absence of cash to provide labour for the installation of the spare parts and operations equipment and material received. UNICEF observation of the impact of supplies provided under the programme indicated that the distributed supplies remained mostly inadequate to meet even the minimum requirements of schools. The physical infrastructure of most schools visited remains either average or below average. A comparative assessment of urban and rural schools by UNESCO indicated that all schools visited in urban areas received a minimum of commodities, while those in rural areas received even less, the latter largely because of transportation difficulties.

Telecommunications

72. In the telecommunications sector, in phases V to VII, applications worth some $5.4 million for vehicles and material handling were approved and nearly $5 million worth had been placed on hold. However, implementation of telecommunications projects has not been possible because holds have been placed on the overwhelming majority of applications for telecommunications equipment for the Iraqi Telecommunications and Postal Company, valued in excess of $122 million as at 30 April 2000. The Office of the Iraq Programme has initiated a review of all applications on hold with the concerned parties in order to ensure that the information requirements of the Security Council Committee are met and that the holds are reconsidered. Arrangements have been finalized for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to field the necessary staff to Iraq early in June 2000.

B. Programme implementation in Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah

73. A number of activities have been undertaken by the United Nations Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq and the United Nations agencies and programmes to improve programme management at the multi-sectoral level in the three northern governorates of Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. These include further application of a project-based approach to the preparation of distribution plans, enhanced coordination of activities related to the settlement rehabilitation sector and to the rehabilitation of electricity generation, transmission and distribution, as well as preparations to enhance the programme coordination and management capacity of that Office. Given the sharp increase in revenue available for the programme in the three northern governorates, various options for expanding inter-agency implementation capacity will be explored as a matter of priority. In collaboration with the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator, a contingency plan has been formulated by FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF and WHO to address the effects of the ongoing drought.

Food

74. Although the flow of food commodities from the central warehouses to the northern governorates has proceeded smoothly, the distribution efficiency and adequacy of the food basket for the end-users has been affected by the shortage of some commodities, and the objections sometimes raised by the local authorities with regard to the quality of certain items. The shortfalls of food basket commodities in December 1999 and January and February 2000 amounted to 0.89 per cent, 0.88 per cent and 0.62 per cent, respectively, of the total requirements. However, the Government-announced food basket was distributed in full and on time during March and April 2000. On average, 56.3 per cent of food agents, 99.6 per cent of flour agents and 50.9 per cent of households received the food basket in full, as announced, and on time.

Health and nutrition

75. The World Health Organization completed the rehabilitation of nine health facilities, while an additional 23 facilities were undergoing rehabilitation. WHO has also devised contingency plans to address the effects of possible outbreaks of communicable diseases that may result from the drought. Medicines and supplies, including intravenous fluids and anti-infectious drugs, have been pre-positioned against such an eventuality. WHO has continued its capacity-building activities of local health sector professionals, including in the areas of primary health care, drug supply management, the proper installation and use of equipment, and nursing education. WHO has finalized the modus operandi for the distribution of selected medical items by private pharmacies, but implementation has not yet started.

76. In March and April 2000, two rounds of national polio immunization days were conducted by UNICEF, during which more than half a million children under 5 years of age were immunized, providing 90 per cent coverage. UNICEF also renovated nine health centres — out of a total of 44 since the start of the programme — trained health personnel on immunization, and supported a training course for doctors, social workers, and technicians on child and adolescence psychosocial treatment, and education for traumatized children. Wheelchairs were delivered to the Helena Centre for Disabled Children, and disabled persons received ortho-prosthetic and physiotherapy services.

77. The caseload of the WFP nutrition programme during the reporting period was, on average, 170,650 beneficiaries per month. WFP launched a two-month school feeding pilot project to improve nutritional status, help increase school attendance, and reduce student dropout rates. UNICEF distributed therapeutic milk and high protein biscuits to 34,956 malnourished children under 5 years of age, vitamin A capsules to children under 5 and lactating mothers, various types of micronutrients to vulnerable pregnant women and lactating mothers, multi-vitamins to children under 5, and potassium iodide to salt iodination plants. The results of the November 1999 survey indicated a decline in the levels of chronic and severe malnutrition, and underweight, by 0.6, 1.6 and 5.2 per cent, respectively, compared to the results of the survey conducted in June 1999.

78. During the period under review, 35 community child-care units and 14 growth monitoring centres were established in remote villages. As part of its capacity-building activities, UNICEF provided training to primary health care staff in the use of growth monitoring equipment, breast-feeding promotion and prevention of micronutrient deficiency diseases. Village volunteers were trained in growth monitoring, health and nutrition education.

Water and sanitation

79. Since the beginning of the programme, 447 of the 500 pumps planned for installation in phases I to V had been installed, 546 tons of chlorine gas/powder and 1,490 tons of aluminium sulphate were distributed, 423 chlorinators were installed, 281 kilometres of the water distribution network had been repaired, construction and renovation of 285 pump and chlorinator houses and spare parts storage had been completed and 21 elevated water storage tanks were repaired or constructed. The distribution of 152 sanitation vehicles and the repair of a further 80 enhanced the solid and liquid waste handling capacity of the municipalities. Pump operators, technicians and engineers were trained in the operation and maintenance of installed pumps.

80. In the rural water and sanitation sector, construction and rehabilitation of rural water projects, benefiting an estimated 300,000 people, were completed. Household latrines benefiting over 70,000 people were constructed. Capacity-building activities included the training of village operators and community leaders, as well as the local authorities. As

part of the United Nations drought contingency planning, UNICEF intends to undertake a survey of the water supply situation in the most vulnerable areas, organize mobile maintenance teams for the repair of non-functioning pumps, identify villages that might need to be provided with water through tankers and undertake public awareness campaigns on water conservation and use.

81. WHO continued to support water quality control activities. Analysis of samples collected in Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah governorates showed contamination levels within accepted standards, while in Erbil, the level remained above WHO limits, although it has declined during the current phase.

Agriculture

82. The drought conditions in some areas have continued during the 1999/2000 agricultural year. The first rains did not come until December 1999, followed by erratic rainfall in March and April 2000 — a critical period for the growth of winter wheat and barley. With the addition of an increased incidence of pest and weed infestation, crop yields are expected to be very low in the secure and semi-secure rainfall areas with no yield in the low rainfall zones. Surveys are under way to update assessments on crop yield status, the level of pest incidence, pasture availability, and surface and groundwater situations. About $57.5 million will be required to mitigate the effects of the drought through the provision of drinking water to animals, irrigation for orchards and planted forest, animal and poultry feed concentrates, vaccines, drugs, barley seeds and fertilizers. FAO has taken action with the Office of the Iraq Programme to ensure urgent processing of drought-related applications including the provision of fodder, which accounts for most of the required contingency funding.

83. According to FAO, outbreaks of *peste des petits ruminants* and foot-and-mouth disease were reported in Erbil governorate. Artificial insemination activities have yielded a total of 341 newborn calves. The Sulaymaniyah fish hatchery started larvae production; the fishery project in Dahuk is already operational, and in Erbil it is under construction. As at 30 April 2000, 457 broiler poultry farms had been renovated since the start of the programme, with a production capacity of 6.5 million broiler chickens per eight-week cycle. As part of the backyard poultry support programme, 2.7 million chickens were vaccinated in 374 villages, benefiting 95,090 vulnerable families.

84. Some 686 surface irrigation pumps, 120,000 metres of pipes and 277 deep well pumps had been distributed, facilitating the irrigation of 6,200 hectares of land belonging to 2,163 farmers, and 22 small-scale irrigation projects were completed. Training courses for local personnel were conducted on design, maintenance and operation of irrigation projects, well-drilling methodology and groundwater hydrology. Winter weed, pest and disease control campaigns covered a total of 212,000 ha of wheat and barley fields, and orchards. Seedlings were planted on 2,250 ha of land and six tons of forest seeds were directly sown on dam catchment areas and erosion-prone sites.

85. Significant progress had been made in the reactivation of agro-industrial plants, with both the Harir tomato paste processing plant and the dairy and edible oil processing plant reaching production stage. FAO conducted 43 training courses for the local agricultural cadre, covering topics such as control of pests, preventive maintenance of agricultural machinery and equipment, bee-keeping techniques, agro-meteorology, poultry husbandry and citrus cultivation.

Electricity

86. The power supply situation remains critical. The drought has severely affected the water levels in the reservoirs of the Derbandikhan and Dokan hydroelectric power stations, resulting in very low levels of generation. With this year's very reduced inflows to the Derbandikhan and Dokan dams, the current hydro-generation output of one hour per day in Sulaymaniyah and zero hours in Erbil may represent the average daily output for the rest of the year. The two power stations are currently generating approximately 50 megawatts each for 12 hours per day, while the demand for Erbil and Sulaymaniyah is 285 and 265 MW, respectively. Dahuk, which is connected to the national grid, is only receiving 20 MW, against a demand of 132 MW, representing one hour per day for consumers.

87. Design works on the first stage of three 29-MW diesel power plants were completed and the civil works have started. Within the context of the drought contingency plan, a project for 600 diesel generators for low-income domestic consumers has been

approved. Pre-bid site visits by the representatives of companies for the transmission lines project were postponed because the Government of Iraq did not grant visas. A large number of distribution transformers were installed to provide electricity supply to new consumers as well as to improve the reliability of supply to existing ones. In Sulaymaniyah, civil work on 10 sub-stations was nearing completion. The installation of electrical plant and equipment is scheduled to commence shortly. Rehabilitation works on the Derbandikhan and Dokan dams and hydroelectric power stations were progressing well.

Education

88. UNICEF has completed the rehabilitation of 324 schools and local education authority buildings since the start of the programme, repaired and maintained the water and sanitation facilities of 18 primary schools, and supported the training of primary school science, Kurdish alphabet, and pre-school teachers. Student kits were supplied to meet the stationery needs of 6,930 pupils in primary schools and students in the literacy programme. Primary school textbooks were printed and distributed; and primary school teaching aid manuals were also distributed. Local education authorities were supported with locally produced desks, computer disks, generators, water pumps, vehicles and motorbicycles; furniture and equipment were provided to kindergartens and primary schools. UNICEF also assisted in the transportation of Iraqi primary and intermediate school textbooks, which were subsequently distributed.

89. Activities undertaken by UNESCO included the production and distribution of school desks; the procurement and delivery of floor matting; training courses and workshops aimed at local capacity-building; distribution of school literature, supplementary reading materials, and reference books and materials in Arabic, Kurdish and Persian; as well as receipt of 2 million textbooks from the Ministry of Education in Baghdad. UNESCO reported that the provision of supplies has had a positive impact on student enrolment and attendance, with enrolment increasing by 25 per cent at both secondary and higher education levels compared to 1998/1999. Of the 153 schools targeted by UNESCO for construction or rehabilitation under phases I to III, 150 had been completed. The production line of the chalk factory initiated under phase I is now installed and is producing sample batches, but quality control issues remain to be addressed.

Rehabilitation of settlements

90. As at 30 April 2000, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) had launched a total of 1,229 projects in some 740 villages and settlements. Of these, 634 had been completed, another 356 were under construction, while an additional 239 projects were in the planning and tendering stages. Completed projects included 72 housing projects, 233 schools, 66 health facilities, and 132 water and sanitation works. During the period under review, Habitat operated in 343 villages, neighbourhoods and settlements. Some 17,600 beneficiaries were provided with 2,700 housing units and an estimated 16,300 students benefited from the construction of 74 schools. Furthermore, some 12 health facilities, 16 road and bridge works, as well as 63 water and sanitation works were completed. Habitat is monitoring a pilot self-help housing project in Erbil governorate and it will evaluate how this method can be improved and expanded.

91. Despite these activities, large numbers of internally displaced persons remain in provisional tent communities where Habitat provides on-site access to basic services until a settlement solution is found. The flow of returnees has continued and a growing number of displaced persons have been arriving from the Kirkuk area.

Mine clearance

92. Mine-clearance teams at all levels of operation have been strengthened. Manual teams have been increased from 13 to 15. Level-two survey teams have been increased from 6 to 8, and they have been further strengthened with an increase from 8 to 11 members per team. Two new explosive ordnance teams have been fielded, 12 level-one survey teams have been deployed to conduct a survey of areas of existing and proposed electrical transmission lines, and the number of dog teams increased. The United Nations Office for Project Services has also completed a study on the long-term sustainability of the programme through the development of local non-governmental organizations. That Office remains concerned about the incidences of freshly laid mines being found in previously cleared mine fields.

93. The United Nations Office for Project Services handed over six cleared minefields, comprising 606,370 square metres, to the local authorities, directly benefiting 236 villages with a total population of 66,895. Since the beginning of the programme, the Office has cleared 21 minefields, covering 2,772,239 m^2. In addition, 1,907 mine victims have been provided with prostheses, 396 with orthoses, 818 with wheelchairs and walking aids, and 1,641 have undergone surgery.

94. In Sulaymaniyah governorate, the United Nations Office for Project Services is currently conducting a mine clearance operation on a water project where a 60-km-long canal is partly laid with mines. It is also surveying a construction area earmarked for 200 houses for internally displaced persons where mines were discovered, as well as supporting joint United Nations Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq/Habitat efforts to settle and reintegrate 10 villages. As part of its assistance, the United Nations Office for Project Services is identifying the levels of mine contamination in those villages, planning public mine awareness campaigns, determining clearance requirements, and preparing emergency procedures for mine victims. In support of the electricity sector activities, that Office is also surveying for mines around one of the electricity sub-stations.

Telecommunications

95. The International Telecommunication Union, responsible for the implementation of telecommunications projects, has commenced its start-up operations with the recruitment of key staff. A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the United Nations and a draft schedule for project implementation has been prepared. Survey work will commence in July 2000 with a view to submitting contract applications by the end of the year.

V. Observations and recommendations

96. The nature of the humanitarian programme authorized by the Security Council in resolution 986 (1995) has evolved significantly over the past three and a half years. The mechanism was initially instituted as an exception to the sanctions, allowing Iraq to generate a limited amount of funds through the sale of oil, for the importation of food and basic medicines. Today, Iraq is authorized to export unlimited amounts of oil and to import a wide range of goods to meet the humanitarian needs of its population and to rehabilitate its civilian infrastructure. At the start of the programme the authorized revenue ceiling was $2 billion per phase, providing $1.32 billion for the implementation of the programme. It is estimated that the revenues earned by oil exports during phase VII will reach $8.4 billion, which, after deductions pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 986 (1995) and other relevant resolutions of the Security Council, would make about $5.64 billion available for the implementation and operation of the programme.

97. The nutritional and health status of the Iraqi people continues to be a major concern. Now that increased revenues are available for the implementation of the programme, the Government of Iraq is in a position to reduce current malnutrition levels and to improve the health status of the Iraqi people. This can be achieved by increasing the funding level in the food and health sectors and ensuring the timely contracting of all supplies in quantities sufficient to meet the requirements and targets recommended previously, in particular those contained in my supplementary report to the Security Council (S/1998/90). I therefore welcome the recent steps taken by the Government of Iraq in requesting increased food basket items, as indicated earlier in this report. It is also necessary to improve distribution systems in the food, nutrition and health sectors. To assist Iraq in improving its distribution systems, it is essential that applications for contracts relating to distribution systems be approved by the Security Council Committee most expeditiously.

98. Until such time as Iraq's infrastructure for electricity and water and sanitation has been sufficiently rehabilitated, the Iraqi people will continue to be vulnerable to disease and hardship. Clean water and a reliable electricity supply are of paramount importance to the welfare of the Iraqi people. If these basic services are to be provided, the contracts aimed at the rehabilitation of the infrastructure in these sectors must be approved without delay.

99. With regard to the education sector, it is clear that greater effort is needed to reverse the current level of deterioration, with all its attendant consequences for Iraq's future educational attainment. I therefore recommend to the Government of Iraq to increase the

level of resources allocated, and to undertake commensurate improvements in the planning and distribution of inputs supplied under the programme.

100. I welcome the ongoing efforts by the Security Council Committee to improve its procedures and define more specifically its information requirements, which has already allowed for a significant number of contracts previously on hold to be approved. It may be recalled that the total value of holds as at 31 January 2000 was approximately $1.5 billion. As at 30 April, the total amount had reached just under $2 billion. I am encouraged by the recent positive trend in the concerted efforts made by all concerned to reduce the total value of holds placed on applications, as at 31 May 2000, to $1.6 billion. Much more needs to be done, however, to bring about a drastic reduction in the number of holds placed on applications, which have been seriously impairing the effective implementation of the programme. I therefore appeal to the members of the Security Council Committee to further intensify their efforts to review the applications placed on hold in the light of additional information being provided by the Office of the Iraq Programme. I also appeal to the Government of Iraq as well as the permanent and observer missions to provide expeditiously all additional information requested by members of the Committee.

101. Ongoing efforts to adapt the structure, and to strengthen and focus the observation mechanism, will enable the Office of the Iraq Programme to meet better the growing information needs of the Committee. It is hoped that this will contribute to a reduction in the number of applications placed on hold.

102. The positive action taken by the Security Council Committee approving the measures proposed by the Office of the Iraq Programme, pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 1284 (1999), has already expedited the processing, as at 31 May 2000, of 356 applications, with a total value of $820 million, which no longer require submission to the Security Council Committee for its approval.

103. I also welcome the approval by the Security Council Committee of the procedures for the implementation of paragraph 18 of resolution 1284 (1999), and its endorsement of the experts to serve on the group to approve applications for contracts for oil spare parts and equipment (see para. 19 above). I wish to appeal to the Committee to approve most expeditiously the lists of oil spare parts and equipment to be submitted by the Office of the Iraq Programme to the Committee for approval in the first week of June, in order to allow the group of experts to start its work as early as possible. In view of the fact that it is against these lists that applications for oil spare parts and equipment will be reviewed by the group of experts, the Security Council may wish to request the Secretariat, in consultation with the Government of Iraq, to submit to the Security Council Committee a list of oil spare parts and equipment for the next phase, in accordance with paragraphs 18 and 25 of resolution 1284 (1999) and in conformity with the procedures for the implementation of paragraph 18 of that resolution. I should like to appeal to the Security Council Committee to further review all applications for oil spare parts and equipment that are currently on hold, in the light of the new procedures pursuant to paragraph 18 of resolution 1284 (1999). The number of applications on hold remains excessive and as at 31 May 2000 had reached 582, with a total value of $341 million. Thus far oil spare parts and equipment valued at $287.2 million have arrived, with an additional $546 million worth of supplies in the pipeline.

104. I also welcome the decision by the Security Council, in its resolution 1293 (2000), to approve the allocation of an additional $300 million for the purchase of oil spare parts and equipment for phases VI and VII of the programme. This will assist in addressing the state of deterioration that characterizes the oil industry in Iraq. However, as noted in my previous report to the Council (S/2000/208), this allocation may succeed only in sustaining production and export capacity at current levels and may not be sufficient to enable Iraq to increase export and production or to offset permanent damage to oil-bearing structures and general deterioration, which has been well documented in the comprehensive survey of the Iraqi oil industry by the group of experts, established pursuant to paragraph 30 of resolution 1284 (1999). I recommend, therefore, that the Council consider a further addition of $300 million to the allocation for oil spare parts and equipment for phase VIII of the humanitarian programme, bringing the total allocation for that phase to $600 million.

105. The Government of Iraq has studied the findings of the joint technical review of housing requirements conducted by United Nations experts and the relevant technical ministries and has recently indicated its

general agreement. I therefore intend to endorse the housing requirements identified in the review for phases VI and VII, provided that appropriate arrangements have been made for United Nations observation. At present, discussions with the Government of Iraq are under way.

106. I should like to give assurances to the Security Council that every effort is being made, as requested in paragraph 22 of resolution 1284 (1999), to minimize the cost of the United Nations activities associated with the implementation of resolution 986 (1995). The Executive Director of the Iraq Programme is currently reviewing the matter with the Controller in order to further minimize the cost of the United Nations operations in the implementation of the programme.

107. I wish to draw the attention of the Council to paragraph 20 of its resolution 1284 (1999) and to my recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of my report of 14 January 2000 (S/2000/22) — which was reiterated in paragraph 209 of my last report (S/2000/208) — regarding the intention of the Secretariat, subject to approval by the Council, to reallocate to the ESB (53 per cent) account funds that have accumulated as a result of the Council's decision to suspend the implementation of paragraph 8 (g) of resolution 986 (1995) for phase VII. This issue was subsequently discussed in the Council, although the Council has yet to come to a decision on the matter. I should like to reiterate my recommendation to the Council.

108. I wish also to draw the Council's attention to additional measures to achieve greater utilization of available resources, in particular with regard to funds in excess of requirements for payments of all contracts approved under earlier phases to fund humanitarian supplies under subsequent phases. This could address notably phases IV and V, for which there is still a revenue shortfall for humanitarian supplies of $589.1 million. I should like to recommend, therefore, that the Council consider authorizing the Committee to review and approve requests by the Office of the Iraq Programme for the use of funds in excess of requirements in earlier phases to fund humanitarian supplies under subsequent phases. For example, although phase I is closed, the total amount of funds still available under that phase is $5.1 million.

109. I welcome the readiness of members of the Security Council to consider arrangements to allow funds deposited in the escrow account established by resolution 986 (1995) to be used for the purchase of locally produced goods and to meet associated local costs for the installation and utilization of inputs which have been funded under the programme. This measure, if implemented efficiently and with transparency, has the potential to significantly improve the impact of this programme on Iraq's civilian population. I hope to be in a position soon to propose arrangements pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 1284 (1999) that will be acceptable to the Security Council Committee as well as to the Government of Iraq. However, based on the findings to date, it is clear that any proposal will require a measure of flexibility on the part of all concerned if it is to be implemented successfully.

110. Further to paragraph 208 (d) of my last report (S/2000/208), I should like to reiterate my recommendation that the Security Council Committee renew its efforts to reach consensus on the proposal submitted on 11 February 1999 by the Office of the Iraq Programme, pursuant to paragraph 53 (l) of my supplementary report (S/1998/90), for a new system to expedite the rate at which funds were reimbursed from the ESC (13 per cent) account to the ESB (53 per cent) account.

111. I also wish to draw the attention of the Security Council to paragraph 208 (e) of my report (S/2000/208) in which I recommended that the Security Council Committee review further the options laid out in the paper prepared by the Office of the Iraq Programme submitted to the Committee on 7 July 1999, concerning payment clauses for the ESB (53 per cent) account. This subject has not been taken up by the Committee in the reporting period, and I would like to draw attention to the importance attached to meeting the legitimate need to provide commercial protection for purchases made from the ESB (53 per cent) account, within the rules and regulations governing the implementation of the programme.

112. In my report (S/2000/208), I recommended to the Council that it consider forgoing the requirement for a 90-day report on the implementation of the programme, the need for which has abated in view of the weekly and monthly status and implementation reports and briefings provided throughout any given phase of the programme. Noting, *inter alia*, the improved observation and reporting mechanisms being put into place by the Secretariat, work on the establishment of a database which Committee members will be able to

access, and the continuous provision of information on the implementation of the programme, I should like to reiterate my recommendation that the Council reconsider the need for a 90-day report. This rationalization of reporting will enable staff in New York as well as in Iraq to better focus their efforts on programme implementation activities.

113. In thanking the Government of Iraq for its overall cooperation in the implementation of the programme, I should like to express my concern over recent restrictive practices relating to the allocation of travel permits and escorts, which are increasingly affecting the unrestricted freedom of movement of United Nations observers, provided for in paragraph 44 of the memorandum of understanding. I therefore request the Government of Iraq to review its administrative procedures relating to the freedom of movement of United Nations personnel, and the timely provision of visas, and to make the necessary adjustments, in accordance with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the memorandum of understanding.

114. Despite all constraints, difficulties and shortcomings referred to in the present report, as in previous reports, the programme has succeeded in providing substantial assistance to Iraq's pressing humanitarian needs in all sectors, through the large-scale importation of civilian goods. The total amount of funds made available for the implementation and operation of the programme from December 1996 to 30 April 2000 was $16.676 billion. As at 30 April, the total value of the supplies that had been delivered to Iraq was $8.071 billion — including over 14 million tons of food basket items valued at $4.8 billion and health supplies worth just under $900 million. Additional approved supplies with a total value of $2.7 billion were awaiting delivery, and additional supplies were being contracted for during the current phase, including some under the previous phases.

115. In any assessment of the programme, however, it should be borne in mind that it was never intended as a substitute for the resumption of normal economic activity, and cannot be expected to address the whole range of needs of the Iraqi population. Nonetheless, in keeping with the objectives of resolution 986 (1995) and subsequent resolutions, it remains essential to seek ways to maximize the efficiency of the programme, for the benefit of the civilian population. The implementation of the provisions of section C of resolution 1284 (1999) will undoubtedly enhance the impact of the programme in alleviating the humanitarian situation in Iraq.

Annex I

Status of the United Nations accounts pertaining to the Iraq programme

1. As at 30 April 2000, $4,606.1 million had been deposited into the account for phase VII as authorized under resolutions 1281 (1999) and 1284 (1999), bringing the total oil sale since the inception of the programme to $25,341.9 million.

2. The allocation of total oil proceeds received from inception to date and the corresponding expenditures are as follows:

(a) $12,990.2 million has been allocated for the purchase of humanitarian supplies by the Government of Iraq, as specified in paragraph 8 (a) of resolution 986 (1995). Also, $234.6 million of interest earned in this account was available for the purchase of humanitarian supplies in the central and southern governorates of Iraq. Letters of credit issued by BNP-Paribas on behalf of the United Nations for the payment of humanitarian supplies for Iraq amounted to $9,652.9 million under phases I to VII.

(b) $3,149.2 million has been allocated for the purchase of humanitarian goods to be distributed in the three northern governorates by the United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme, as specified in paragraph 8 (b) of Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and as revised by paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 1153 (1998). Expenditures recorded for humanitarian goods approved by the Security Council Committee amounted to $1,690.0 million.

(c) $7,533.4 million has been transferred directly into the United Nations Compensation Fund, as specified in paragraph 8 (c) of resolution 986 (1995). As at 30 April 2000, $175.2 million had been allotted to cover the operating expenditures of the Compensation Commission up to 31 December 2000, and an amount of $7,070.2 million for payment of various instalments of "A", "C", "D", "E" and "F" claims.

(d) $536.6 million has been allocated for the operational and administrative expenses of the United Nations associated with the implementation of resolution 986 (1995), as specified in paragraph 8 (d) of that resolution. Expenditures for administrative costs for all United Nations entities involved in implementing the resolution amounted to $263.2 million.

(e) $181.9 million has been allocated for operating expenses of the United Nation Special Commission for the disarmament of Iraq and its successor, the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, instated by Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), as specified in paragraph 8 (e) of resolution 986 (1995). Expenditures for the Commission amounted to $75.1 million.

(f) $831.1 million has been set aside for the transportation costs of petroleum and petroleum products originating in Iraq exported via the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline through Turkey, in accordance with paragraph 8 (f) of resolution 986 (1995) and in line with procedures adopted by the Security Council Committee. Of that amount, $639.9 million has been paid to the Government of Turkey.

(g) $119.5 million has been transferred directly to the escrow account established pursuant to resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991) for the repayments envisaged under paragraph 6 of resolution 778 (1992), as specified in paragraph 8 (g) of resolution 986 (1995) and subsequently in paragraph 34 of my report (S/1996/978). The total of repayments made amounted to $119.5 million. Transfers to this account have been suspended in accordance with paragraph 20 of resolution 1284 (1999).

Annex II

A. Oil proceeds

Phase	Last deposit	Letters of credit	
		Number	Value (United States dollars)
I	27 June 1997	123	2 149 806 395.99
II	2 January 1998	130	2 124 569 788.26
III	30 June 1998	186	2 085 326 345.25
IV	28 December 1998	280	3 027 147 422.35
V	25 June 1999	333	3 947 022 565.12
VI	23 December 1999	352	7 401 894 881.57
VII (current)	As at 30 April 2000	280	4 606 128 270.65
Total		**1 684**	**25 341 895 669.19**

B. Humanitarian supply letters of credit for ESB (53 per cent) account and bulk procurement

Phase	Letters of credit opened		Bank payments made on delivery (United States dollars)
	Number	Value (United States dollars)	
I	870	1 229 078 786.69	1 208 007 934.97
II	538	1 197 759 389.19	1 175 500 359.05
III	669	1 209 273 197.37	1 168 263 305.66
IV (humanitarian supplies)	689	1 572 492 555.83	1 323 246 479.17
IV (oil spare parts)	455	252 539 426.37	176 642 074.04
V (humanitarian supplies)	954	1 638 432 246.95	1 166 410 683.15
V (oil spare parts)	377	181 498 872.21	59 660 301.66
VI (humanitarian supplies)	882	1 670 443 839.79	570 146 991.88
VI (oil spare parts)	296	161 060 392.15	2 997 631.43
VII (current humanitarian supplies)	83	540 291 420.52	-
VII (current oil spare parts)	0	-	-
Total	**5 813**	**9 652 870 127.07**	**6 850 875 761.01**

Annex III

Observation visits by the United Nations December 1999-April 2000

Sector	*United Nations agency unit*	*Centre/south*	*North*	*Total*
Food	WFP	62 672	12 113	74 785
	Geographical Observation Unit	3 984	288	4 272
Subtotal				79 057
Food-handling	Multidisciplinary Observation Unit	13	[a]	13
Subtotal				13
Health	WHO	1 650	684	2 334
	Geographical Observation Unit	972	72	1 044
	Multidisciplinary Observation Unit	49	0	49
	UNICEF	0	126	126
Subtotal				3 553
Nutrition	UNICEF	845	136	981
	Geographical Observation Unit	103	0	103
Subtotal				1 084
Water and sanitation	UNICEF	1 490	474	1 964
	Geographical Observation Unit	105	0	105
	Multidisciplinary Observation Unit	31	0	31
Subtotal				2 100
Agriculture	FAO	833	1 404	2 237
	Geographical Observation Unit	780	0	780
	Multidisciplinary Observation Unit	66	0	66
Subtotal				3 083
Electricity	UNDP/Department of Economic and Social Affairs	264	0	264
	Geographical Observation Unit	544	0	544
Subtotal				808
Education	UNESCO/UNICEF	278	123	401
	Geographical Observation Unit	586	75	661
Subtotal				1 062
Settlement rehabilitation	Geographical Observation Unit	[a]	488	488
Subtotal				488
Grand total of observation visits				**91 248**

[a] Not available.

Annex IV

Arrivals and distribution of commodities purchased under Security Council resolution 986 (1995) as at 30 April 2000

		Since the start of the programme			*During the reporting period*	
Sector	*Region*	*Arrivals (millions of United States dollars)*	*Distributed/installed (millions of United States dollars)*	*Percentage of arrivals*	*Arrivals (millions of United States dollars)*	*Distributed/installed (millions of United States dollars)*
Food (bulk purchase)	**Centre/south**		**4 193.1**	**87**	**685.4**	**481.6**
	North	**4 831.4[a]**	**677.7**	**14**	**116.9**	**105.7**
Food-handling	**Centre/south**	**232.2**	**221.2**	**95**	**63.1**	**62.8**
Health (bulk purchase)	**Centre/south**		**566.2**	**64**	**137.6**	**83.4**
	North	**889.0[a]**	**62.3[b]**	**7**	**12.8**	**8.2**
Health	**North**	**38.4**	**32.6**	**85**	**6.2**	**4.9**
Nutrition	**North**	**33.8**	**30.1**	**89**	**5.1**	**3.4**
Water and sanitation	**Centre/south**	**110.4**	**67.0**	**61**	**24.2**	**10.0**
	North	**62.0**	**60.0**	**97**	**6.2**	**9.1**
Agriculture	**Centre/south**	**340.1**	**240.5**	**71**	**113.5**	**77.5**
	North	**136.0**	**116.3**	**86**	**32.3**	**23.8**
Electricity	**Centre/south**	**328.4**	**324.2**	**99**	**139.6**	**136.9**
	North	**64.4**	**51.8**	**80**	**28.3**	**28.6**
Education	**Centre/south**	**61.4**	**42.0**	**68**	**14.0**	**8.6**
	North	**43.0**	**40.4**	**94**	**4.8**	**4.6**
Rehabilitation of settlements	**North**	**9.8**	**7.0**	**71**	**2.3**	**1.6**
Mine clearance	**North**	**3.4**	**3.4**	**100**	**0.75**	**0.75**

Note: Figures for the north reflect overseas procurement only and therefore do not include agency contracts entered into or funds disbursed.

[a] Figure reflects bulk purchase agreement for the entire country.

[b] Figure reflects amount distributed to the north from the bulk purchase agreement.